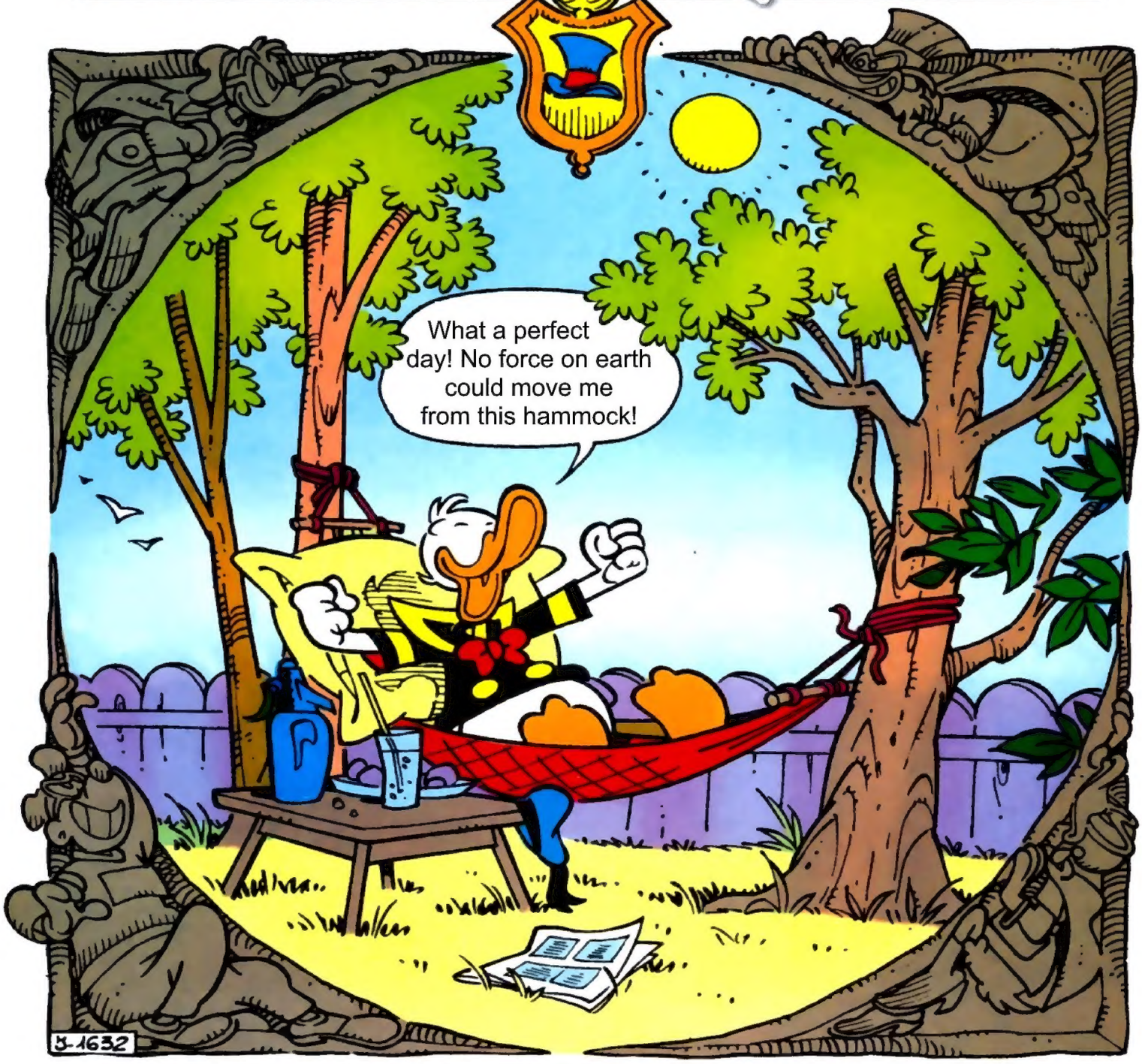
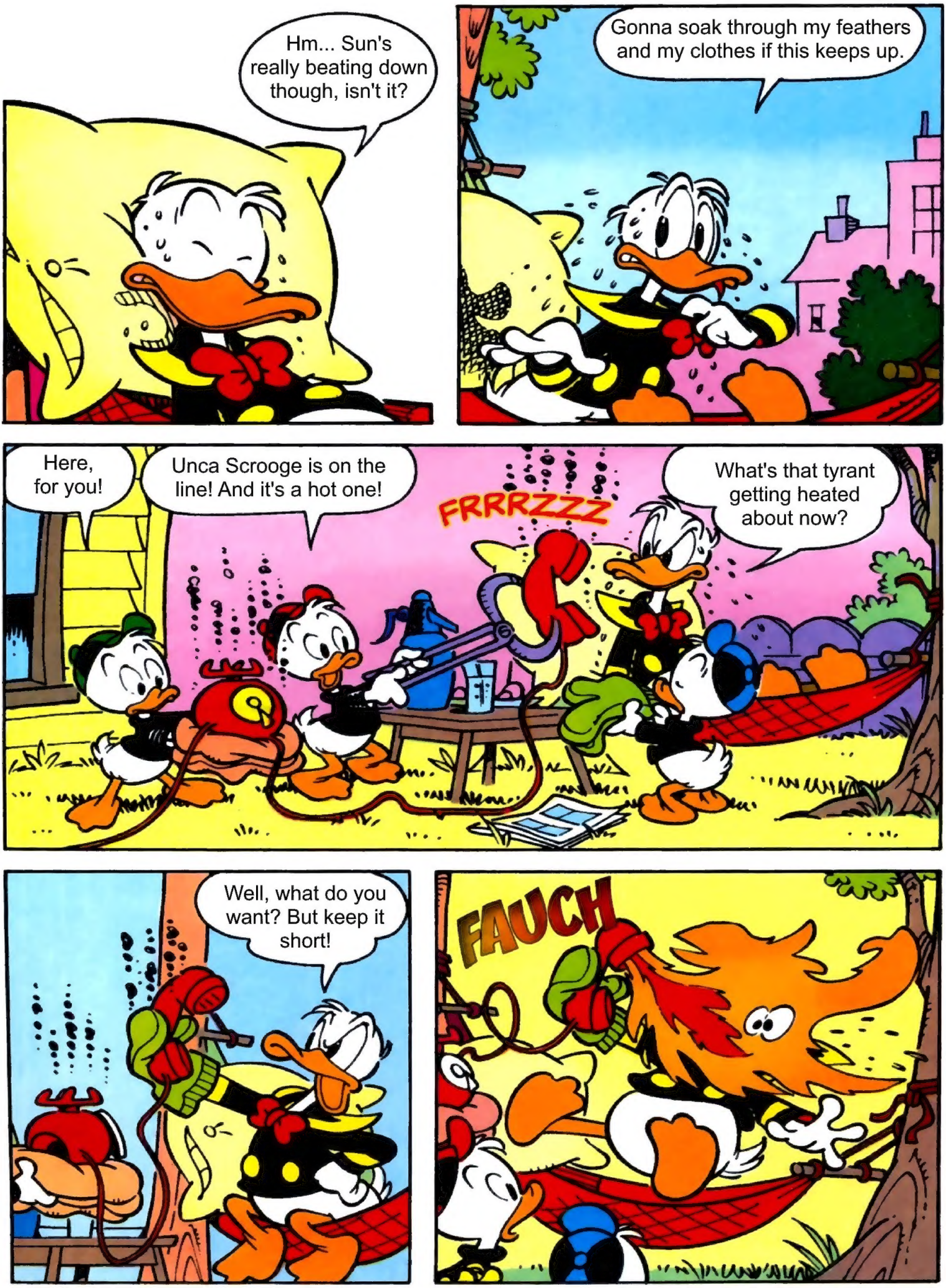
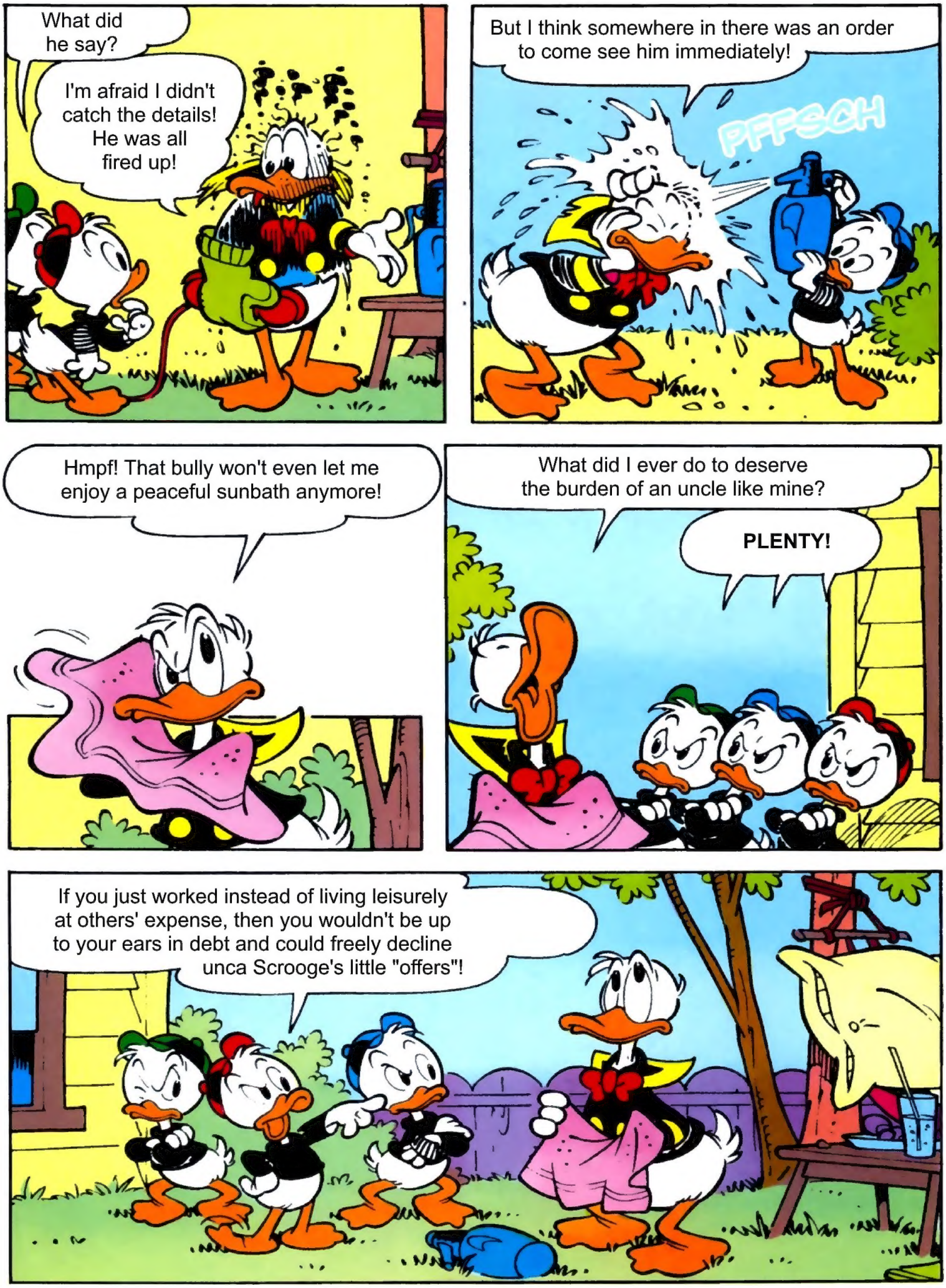
WALT DISNEY

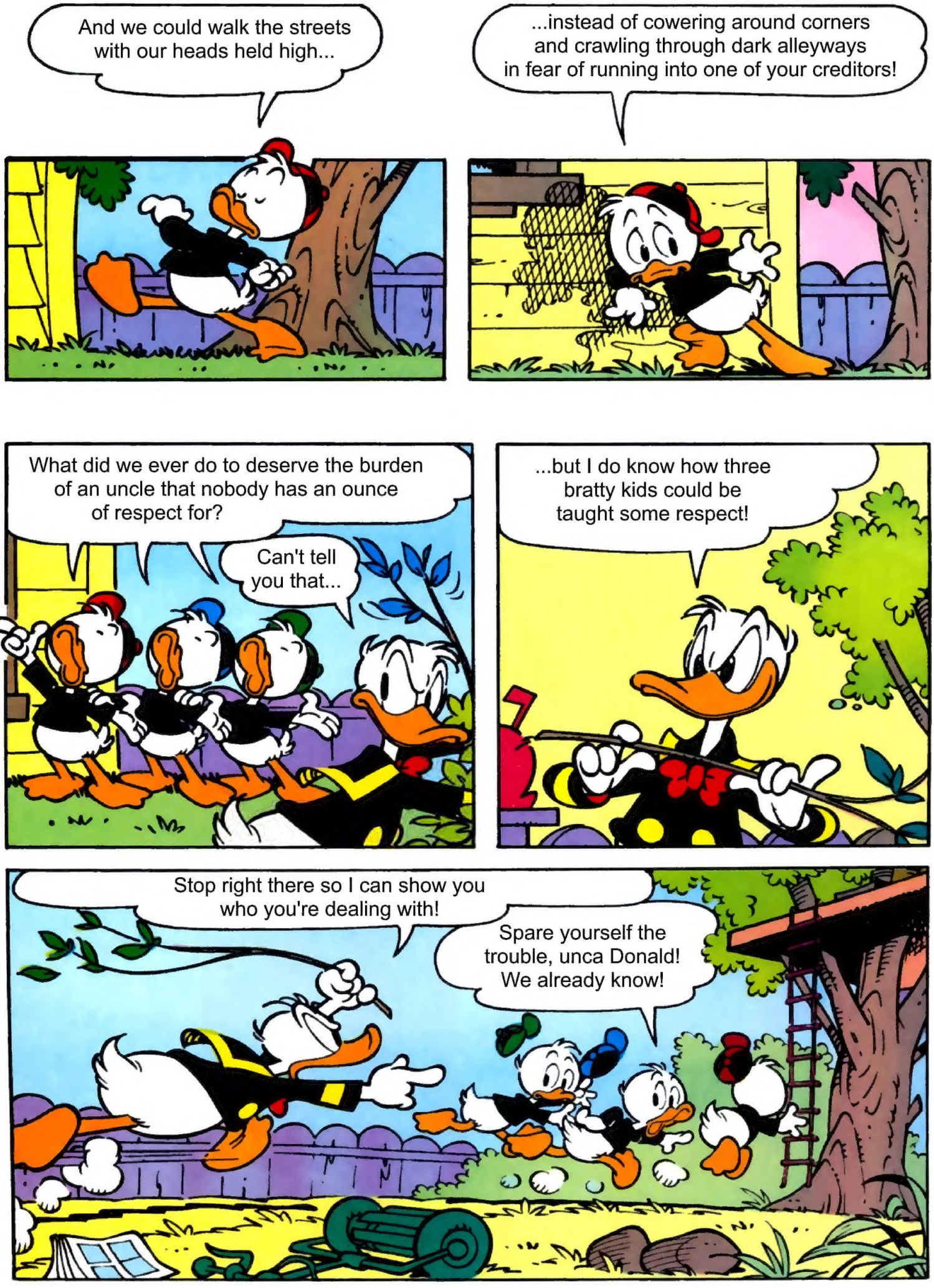
Der Sieg des Maskierten Zylinders

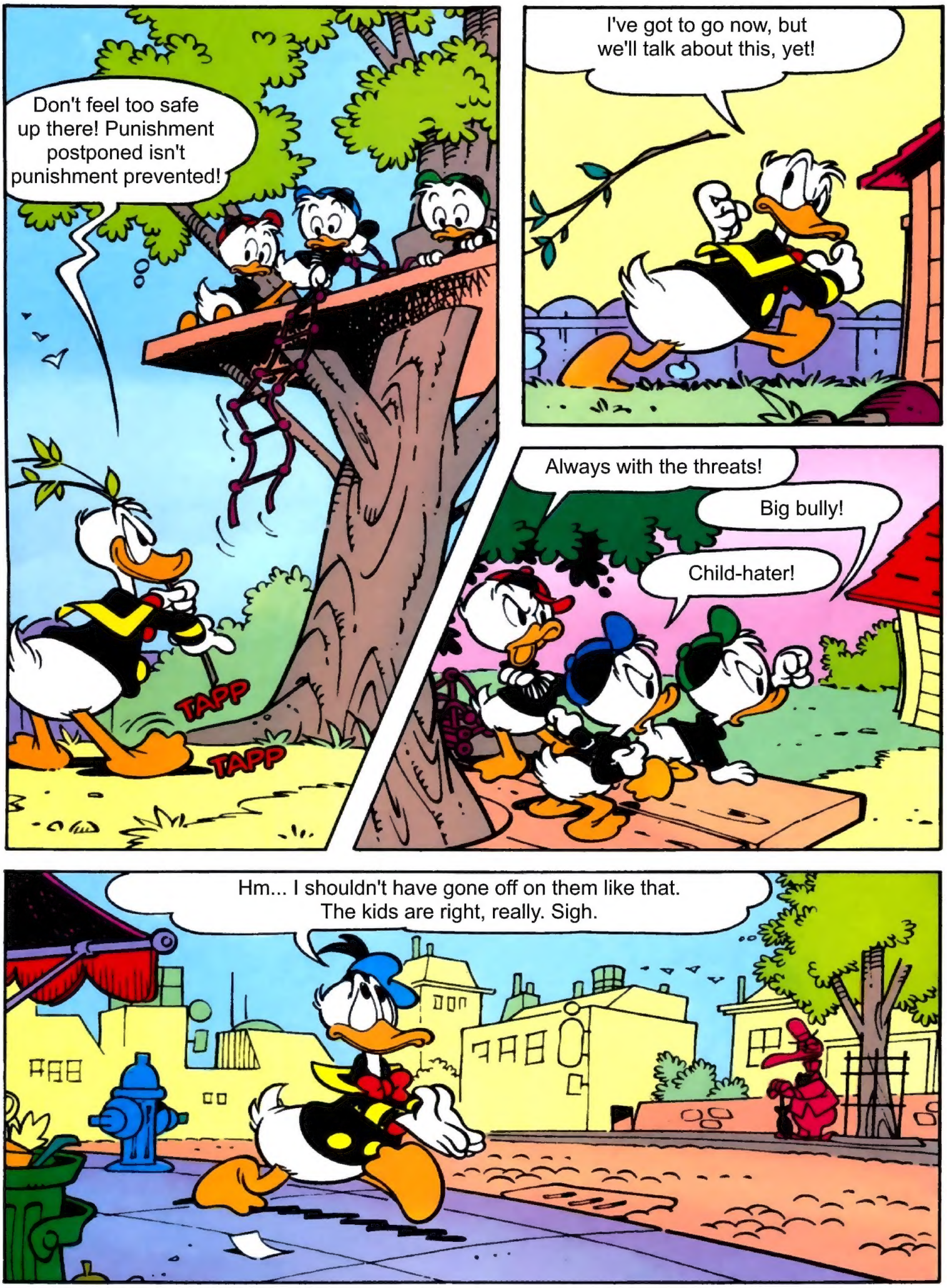


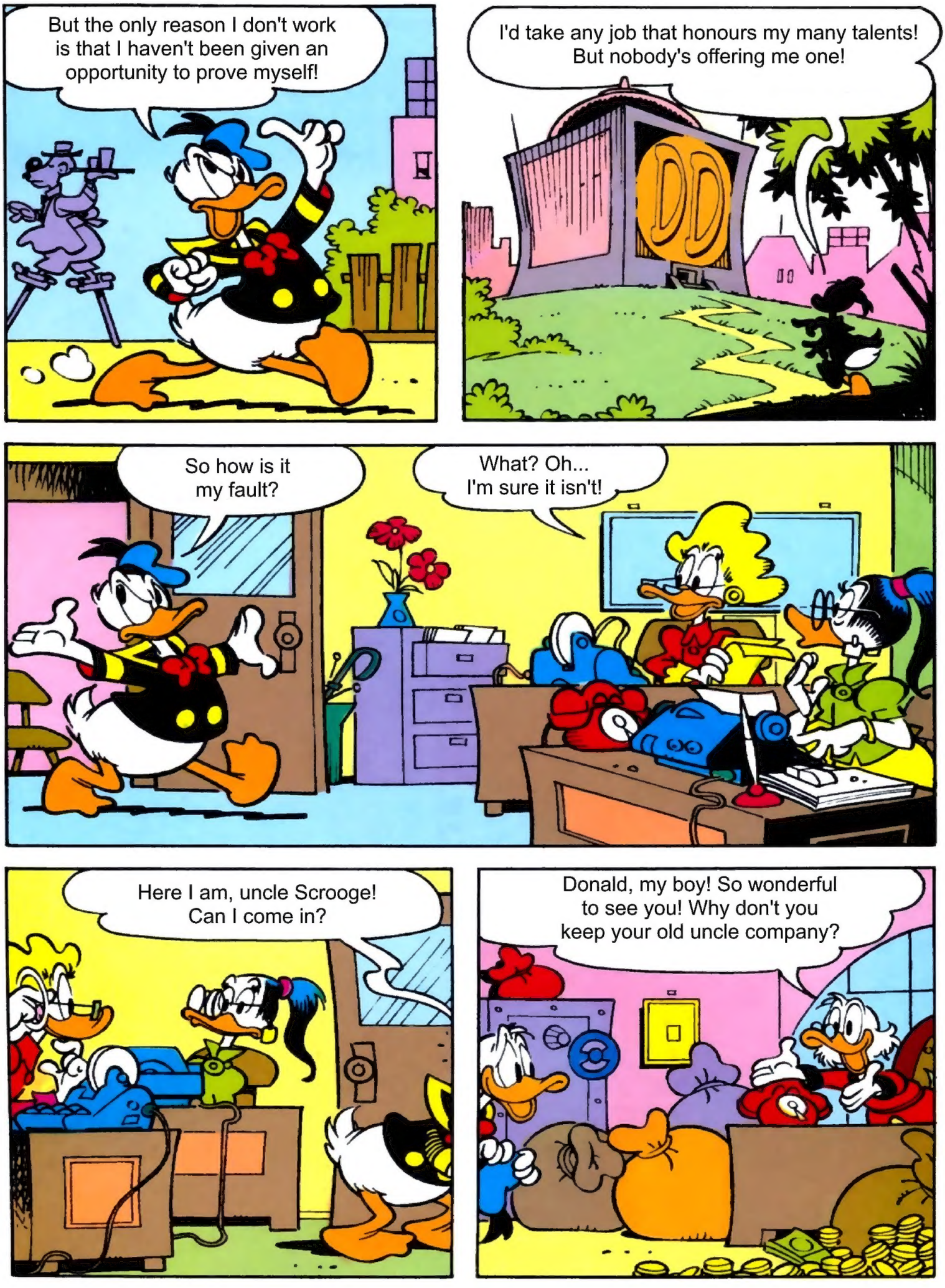
Massimo Marconi (Story), **Massimo De Vita** (Zeichnungen)


Hm... Sun's really beating down though, isn't it?
Gonna soak through my feathers and my clothes if this keeps up.
Here, for you!
Unca Scrooge is on the line! And it's a hot one!
FRRRZZZ
What's that tyrant getting heated about now?
Well, what do you want? But keep it short!
FAUCH

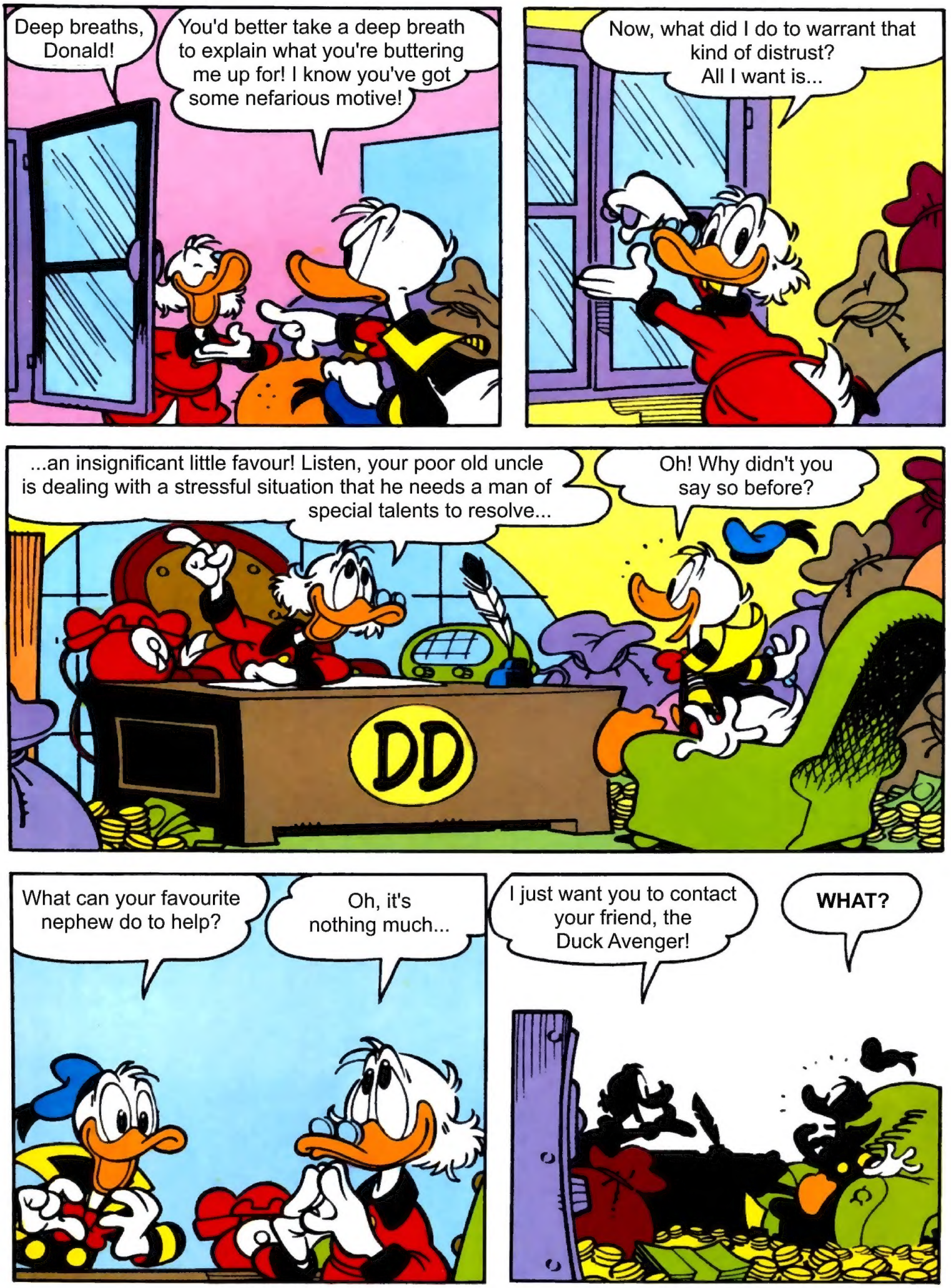

What did he say?
I'm afraid I didn't catch the details! He was all fired up!
But I think somewhere in there was an order to come see him immediately!
PFFSCH
Hmpf! That bully won't even let me enjoy a peaceful sunbath anymore!
What did I ever do to deserve the burden of an uncle like mine?
PLENTY!
If you just worked instead of living leisurely at others' expense, then you wouldn't be up to your ears in debt and could freely decline unca Scrooge's little "offers"!

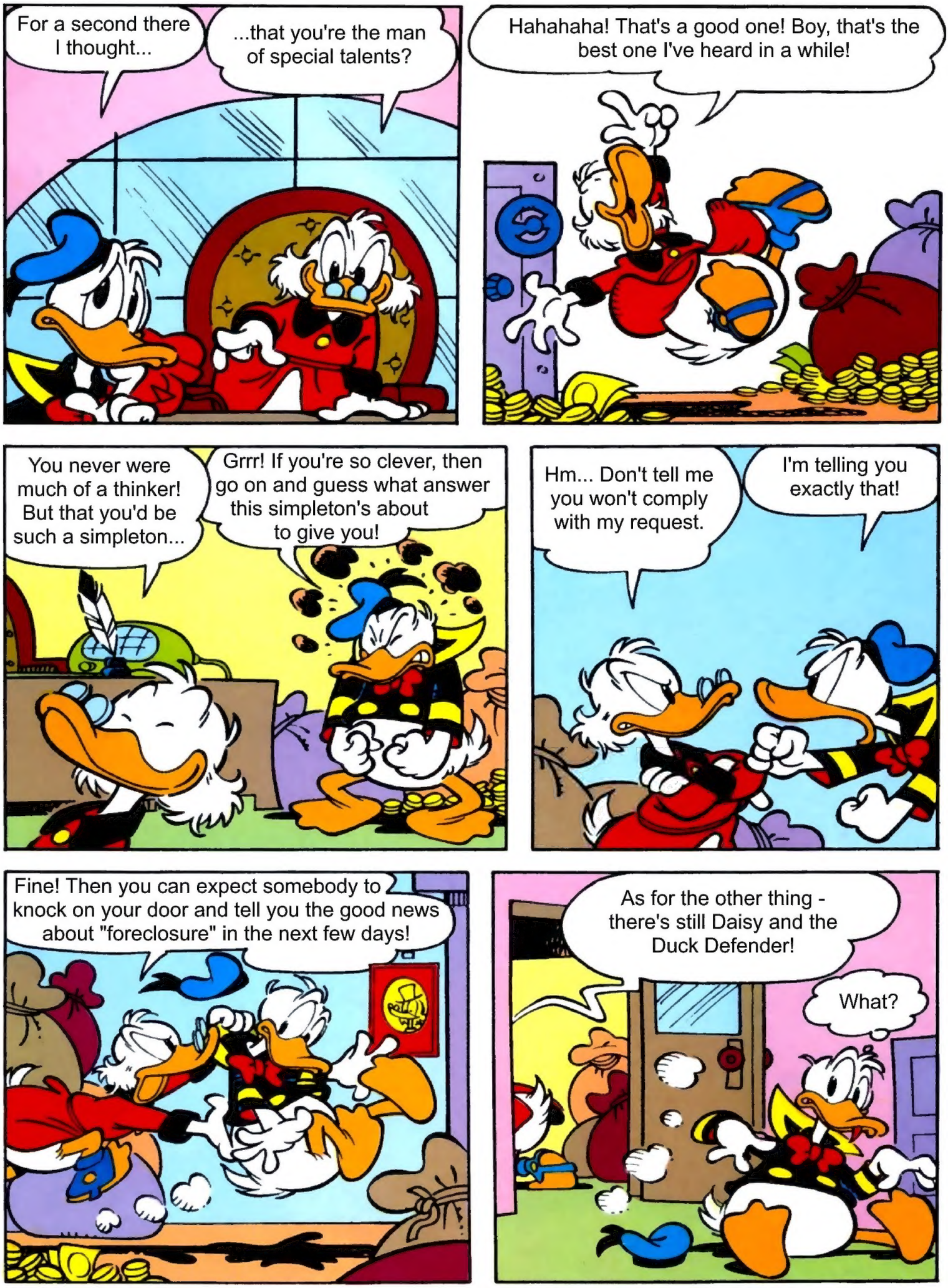

And we could walk the streets with our heads held high...
...instead of cowering around corners and crawling through dark alleyways in fear of running into one of your creditors!
What did we ever do to deserve the burden of an uncle that nobody has an ounce of respect for?
Can't tell you that...
...but I do know how three bratty kids could be taught some respect!
Stop right there so I can show you who you're dealing with!
Spare yourself the trouble, unca Donald! We already know!

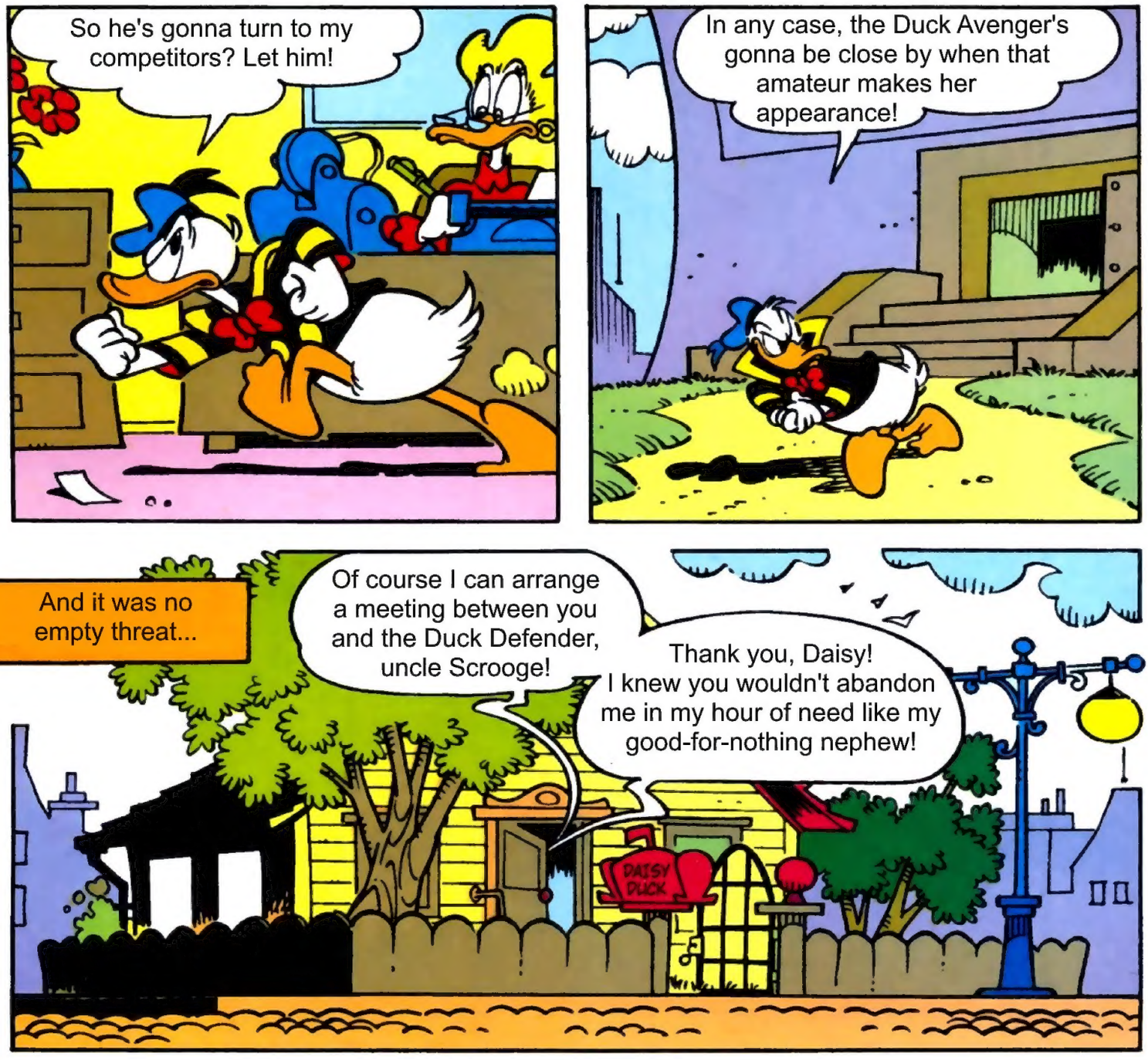

Don't feel too safe up there! Punishment postponed isn't punishment prevented!
TAPP
TAPP
I've got to go now, but we'll talk about this, yet!
Always with the threats!
Big bully!
Child-hater!
Hm... I shouldn't have gone off on them like that. The kids are right, really. Sigh.

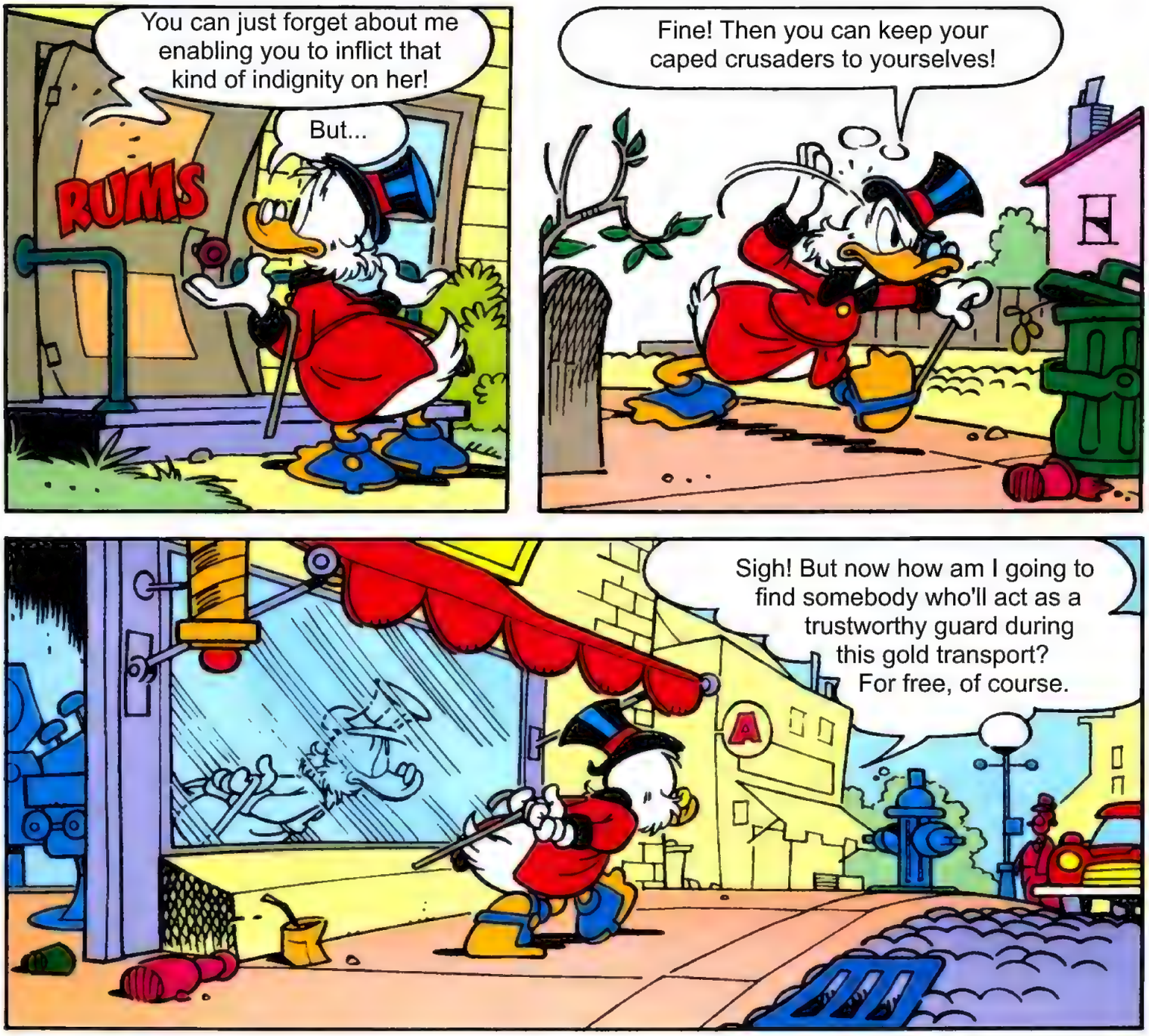

But the only reason I don't work is that I haven't been given an opportunity to prove myself!
I'd take any job that honours my many talents! But nobody's offering me one!
So how is it my fault?
What? Oh... I'm sure it isn't!
Here I am, uncle Scrooge! Can I come in?
Donald, my boy! So wonderful to see you! Why don't you keep your old uncle company?

?!
Have a seat! My favourite visitor ought to be comfortable!
Would you like some chocolate?
Huh? Well, sure!
No, better not! Chocolate is bad for your teeth!
SCHNAPP
OUCH!
I'll offer you something that'll keep you in good health...
Hey!
A nice breath of fresh air! A balm for your lungs!


Deep breaths, Donald!
You'd better take a deep breath to explain what you're buttering me up for! I know you've got some nefarious motive!
Now, what did I do to warrant that kind of distrust? All I want is...
...an insignificant little favour! Listen, your poor old uncle is dealing with a stressful situation that he needs a man of special talents to resolve...
Oh! Why didn't you say so before?
DD
What can your favourite nephew do to help?
Oh, it's nothing much...
I just want you to contact your friend, the Duck Avenger!
WHAT?


For a second there I thought...
...that you're the man of special talents?
Hahahaha! That's a good one! Boy, that's the best one I've heard in a while!
You never were much of a thinker! But that you'd be such a simpleton...
Grrr! If you're so clever, then go on and guess what answer this simpleton's about to give you!
Hm... Don't tell me you won't comply with my request.
I'm telling you exactly that!
Fine! Then you can expect somebody to knock on your door and tell you the good news about "foreclosure" in the next few days!
As for the other thing - there's still Daisy and the Duck Defender!
What?


So he's gonna turn to my competitors? Let him!
In any case, the Duck Avenger's gonna be close by when that amateur makes her appearance!
And it was no empty threat...
Of course I can arrange a meeting between you and the Duck Defender, uncle Scrooge!
Thank you, Daisy! I knew you wouldn't abandon me in my hour of need like my good-for-nothing nephew!
DAISY DUCK
What does Donald have to do with this?
I asked him to get in touch with the Duck Avenger, but he...
What?! You're trying to use the Duck Defender as a second-rate stopgap?!
But, Daisy...


You can just forget about me enabling you to inflict that kind of indignity on her!
But...
RUMS
Fine! Then you can keep your caped crusaders to yourselves!
Sigh! But now how am I going to find somebody who'll act as a trustworthy guard during this gold transport? For free, of course.
I'll need a whole convoy to surround my gold when a single one of those masked heroes could have kept it safe!
...No matter which one? Of course! Why didn't I think of it before?

Hihi! The two of us just came up with another brilliant plan, didn't we, my good fellow? Let's put it into action right now!
?

Action is put into...
Well, Quackmore? Give me your verdict! How do I look?
Very... cough... fancy, sir! But do you really think...

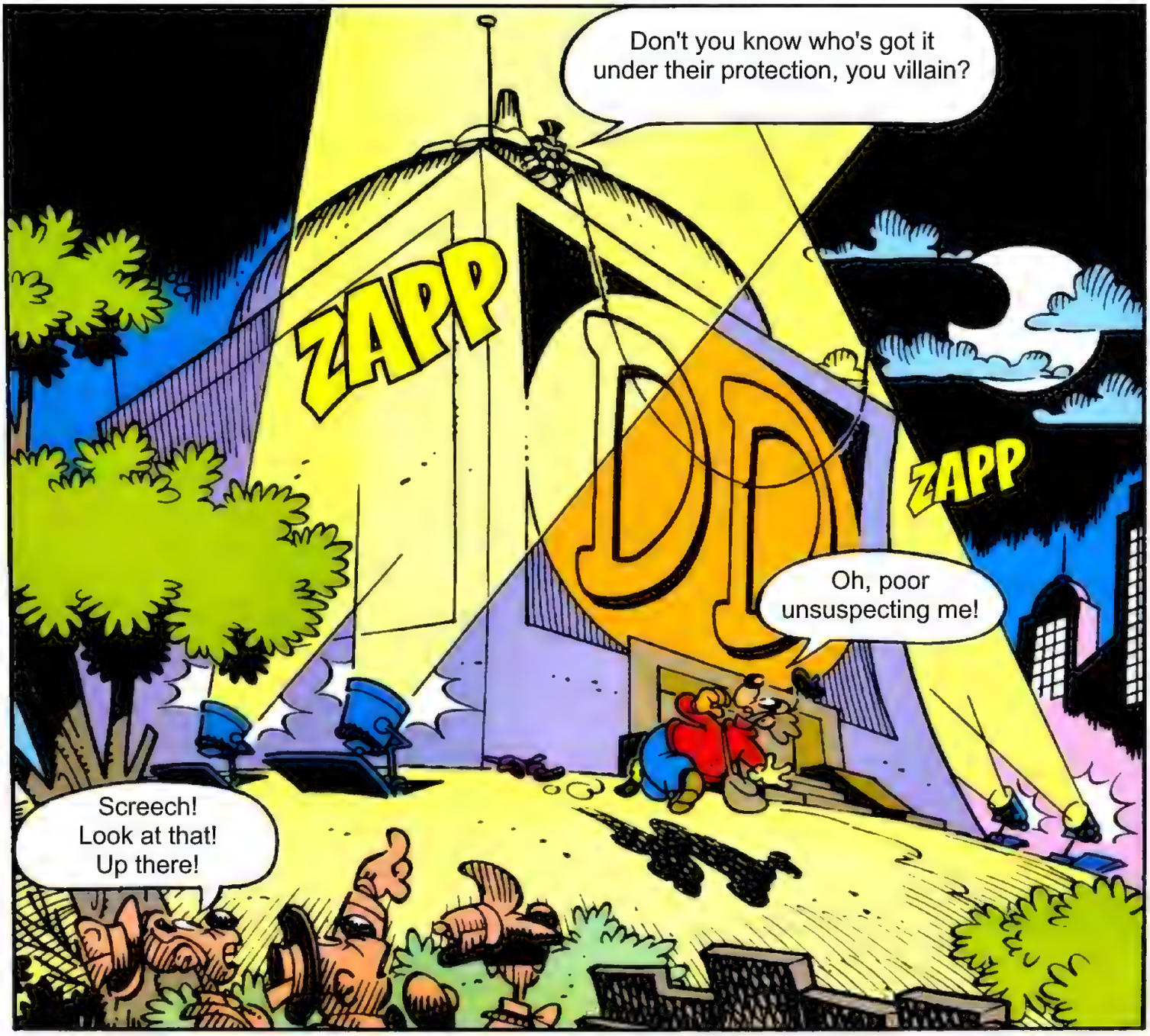
...this idea of yours will work?
I'd almost bet money on it! All we have to do is make sure...

...that the Masked Top Hat becomes the talk of the town!
NUGGET
SPITZHACKE ALIS KLONDIKE

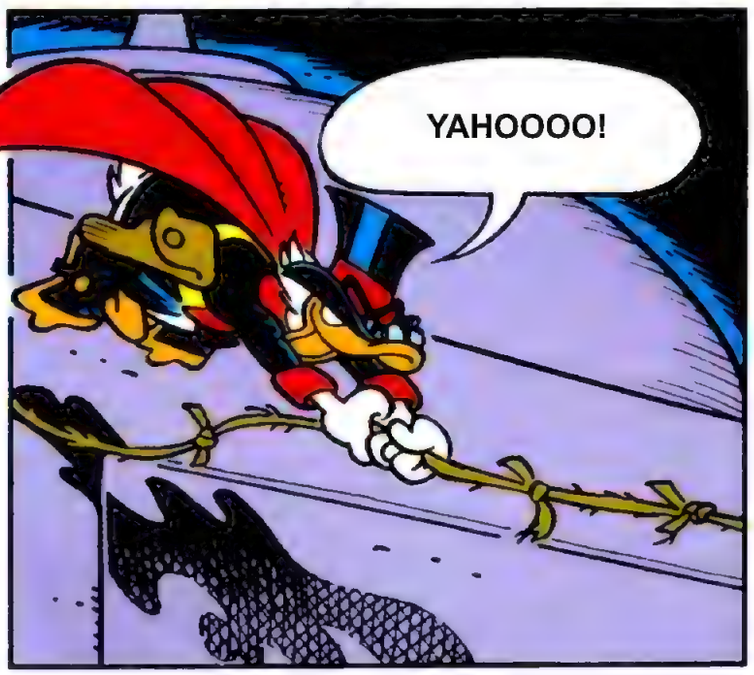
My grand debut as a super hero has to be so spectacular...
PLOPP
...that every crook comes down with a case of chattering teeth at the mere mention of my name!
KLAAS KLEVERS KEULE
No thief out there will dare to go after my armoured van while I'm, or rather, while he's guarding it!
But what if somebody does try?
The Masked Top Hat is well prepared for that eventuality!
KLICK
Just like the Avenger and Defender, I, too, have a secret weapon at my disposal!

A bit antiquated, your weapon, isn't it?
Pah! I've always defended my gold with a cannon! I'm not about to change that now!
But that's enough talk. We need to prepare for our performance.
Do I really have to, sir?
What do you think? I've already sent out the invitations!
Meanwhile, outside...
Did you guys get anonymous letters, too?
Yes! Our mysterious informant mysteriously informed us that somebody's gonna try to break into McDuck's money bin tonight!

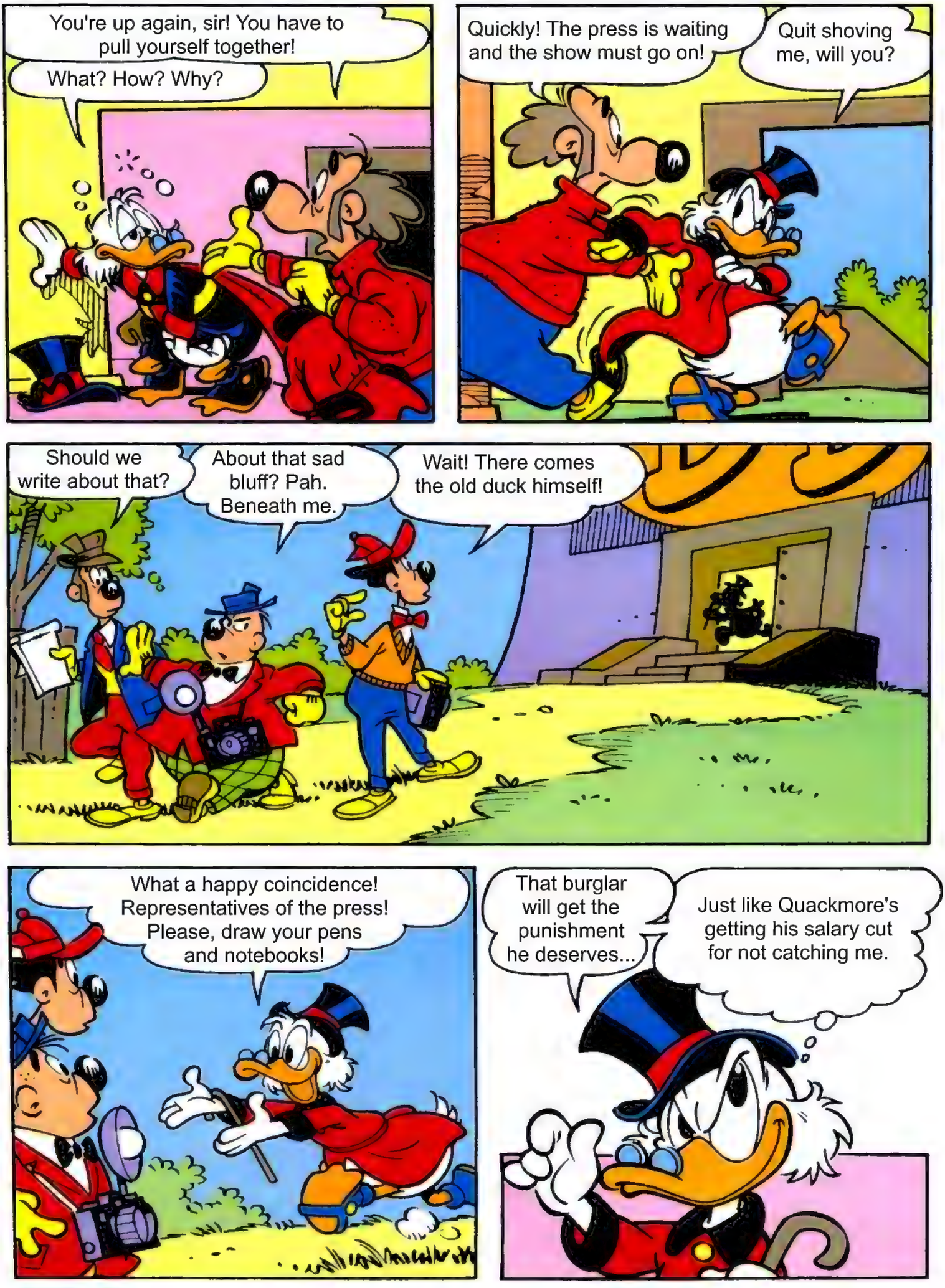
Think there's any truth to it?
Who knows! When it comes to old McDuck...
Pst! Be quiet for a second!
Someone's coming!
TAPP
TAPP
DRRR DRRR
What should we do?
Call the police?
No! Let's wait and see if...
Aha! You dare to trespass on Scrooge McDuck's money bin?!
Gulp!


Don't you know who's got it under their protection, you villain?
ZAPP
ZAPP
Oh, poor unsuspecting me!
Screech! Look at that! Up there!

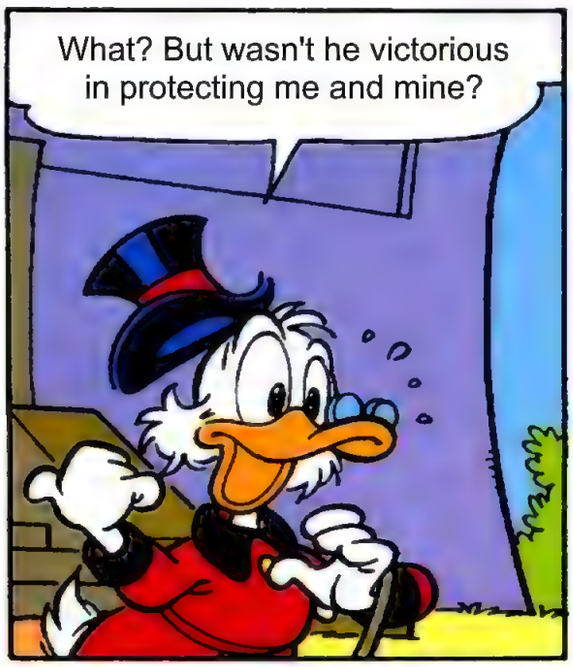
I do! I, the Masked Top Hat! I will defend my master's possessions with my very dying breath!


YAHOOOO!

Oh no! The boss tied some ancient, fraying ropes together!
It just had to end like this.
Oof!
WUMS
I surrender! Do with me what you will!
Groan... Sorry, what?
Yes, yes, I'm retreating! I'm just far too scared to resist!
Hm?
Pretty badly staged, huh?
Downright dilettante.


You're up again, sir! You have to pull yourself together!
What? How? Why?
Quickly! The press is waiting and the show must go on!
Quit shoving me, will you?
Should we write about that?
About that sad bluff? Pah. Beneath me.
Wait! There comes the old duck himself!
What a happy coincidence! Representatives of the press! Please, draw your pens and notebooks!
That burglar will get the punishment he deserves...
Just like Quackmore's getting his salary cut for not catching me.

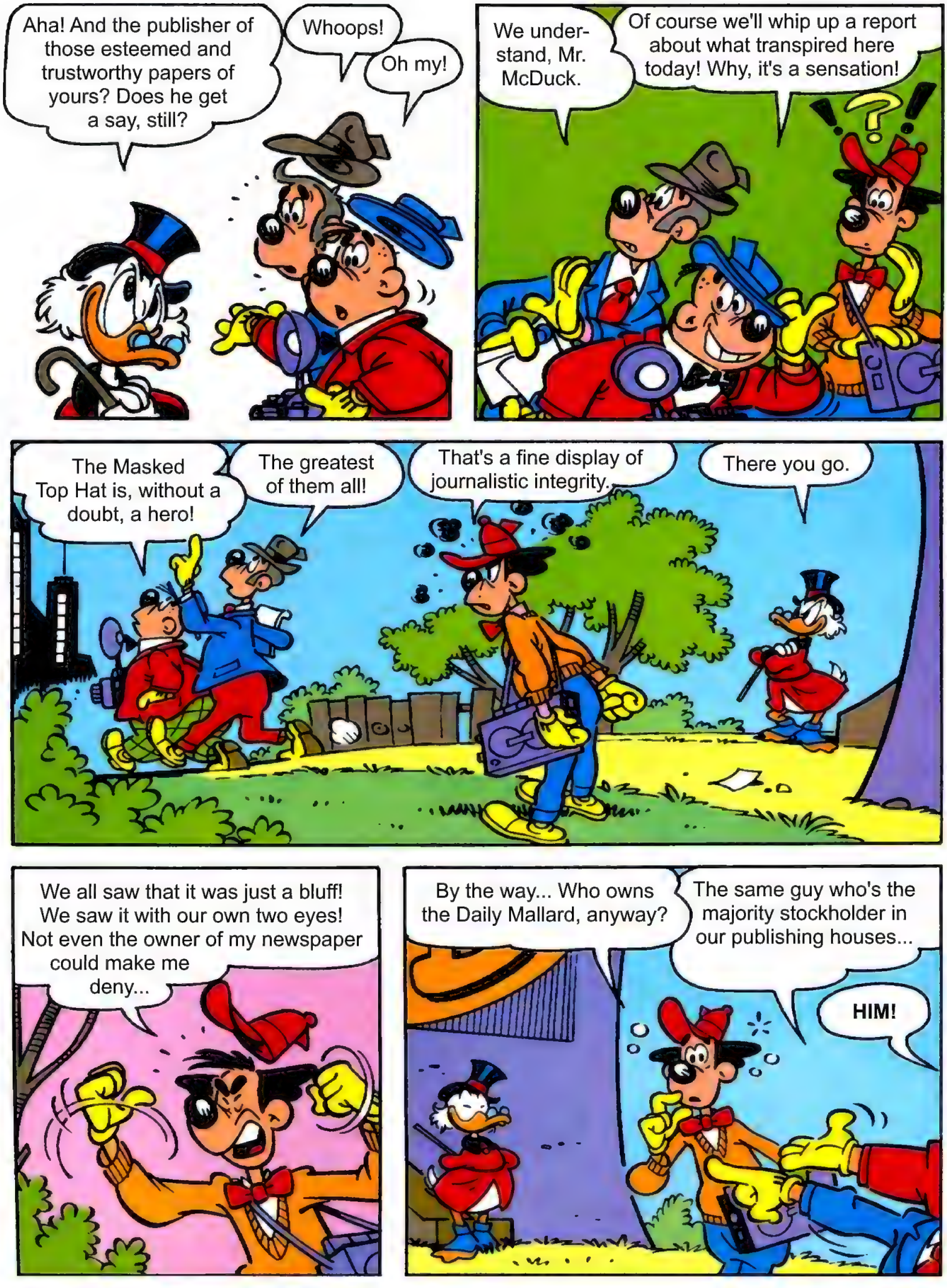
And the Masked Top Hat will be repaid with my eternal gratitude! He's a true hero!
That ridiculous buffoon?
PAH!

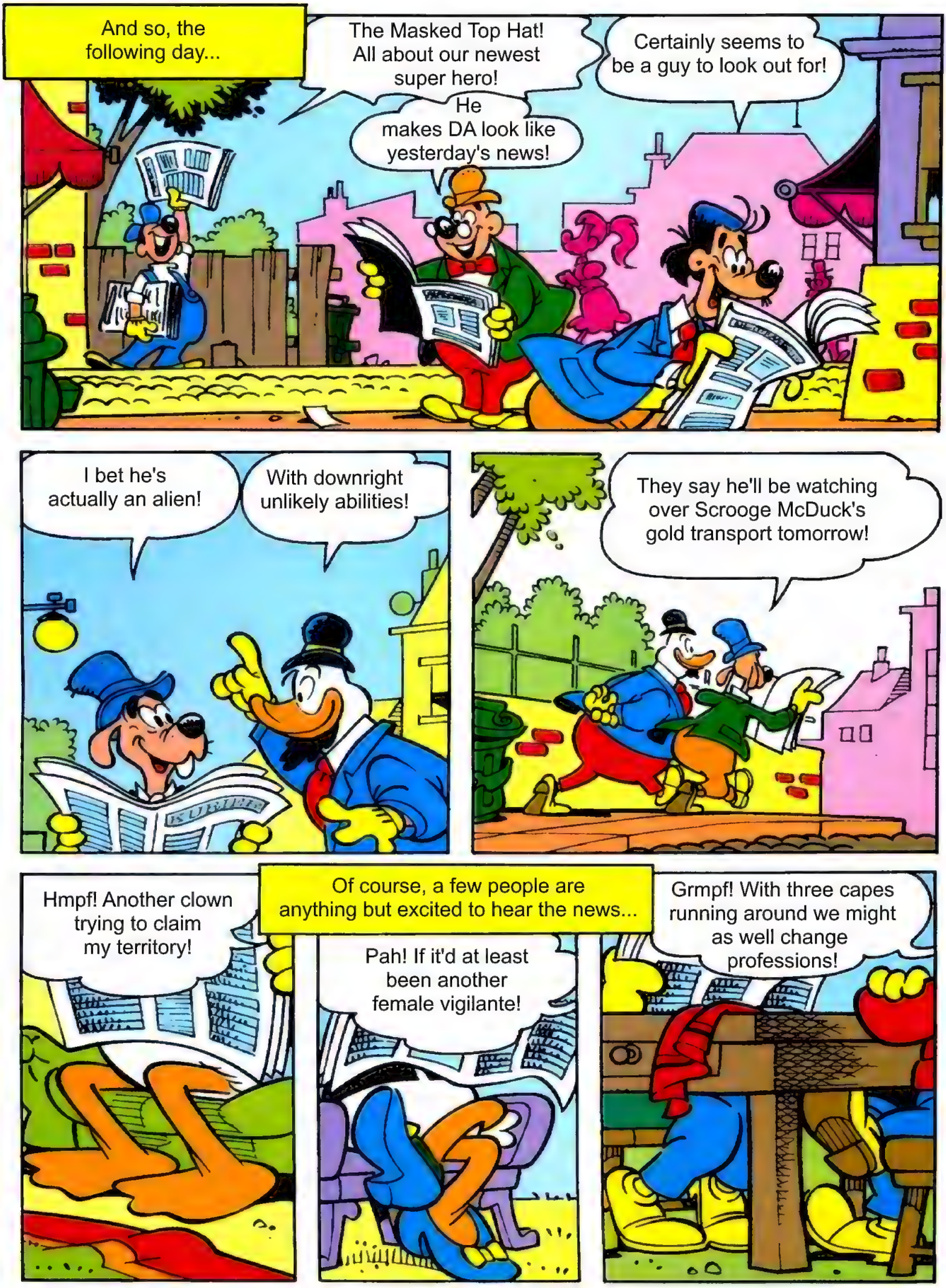

What? But wasn't he victorious in protecting me and mine?

Does that mean you won't report on him?
You guessed it!
How dumb do you think we are?
Any child could have seen through that charade!

I demand that you print an article about the Masked Top Hat! And I'm talking front page!

Not here at the Duckburg Courier! We're a respectable publication!
The Gazette would never lead its readers astray like this, either!

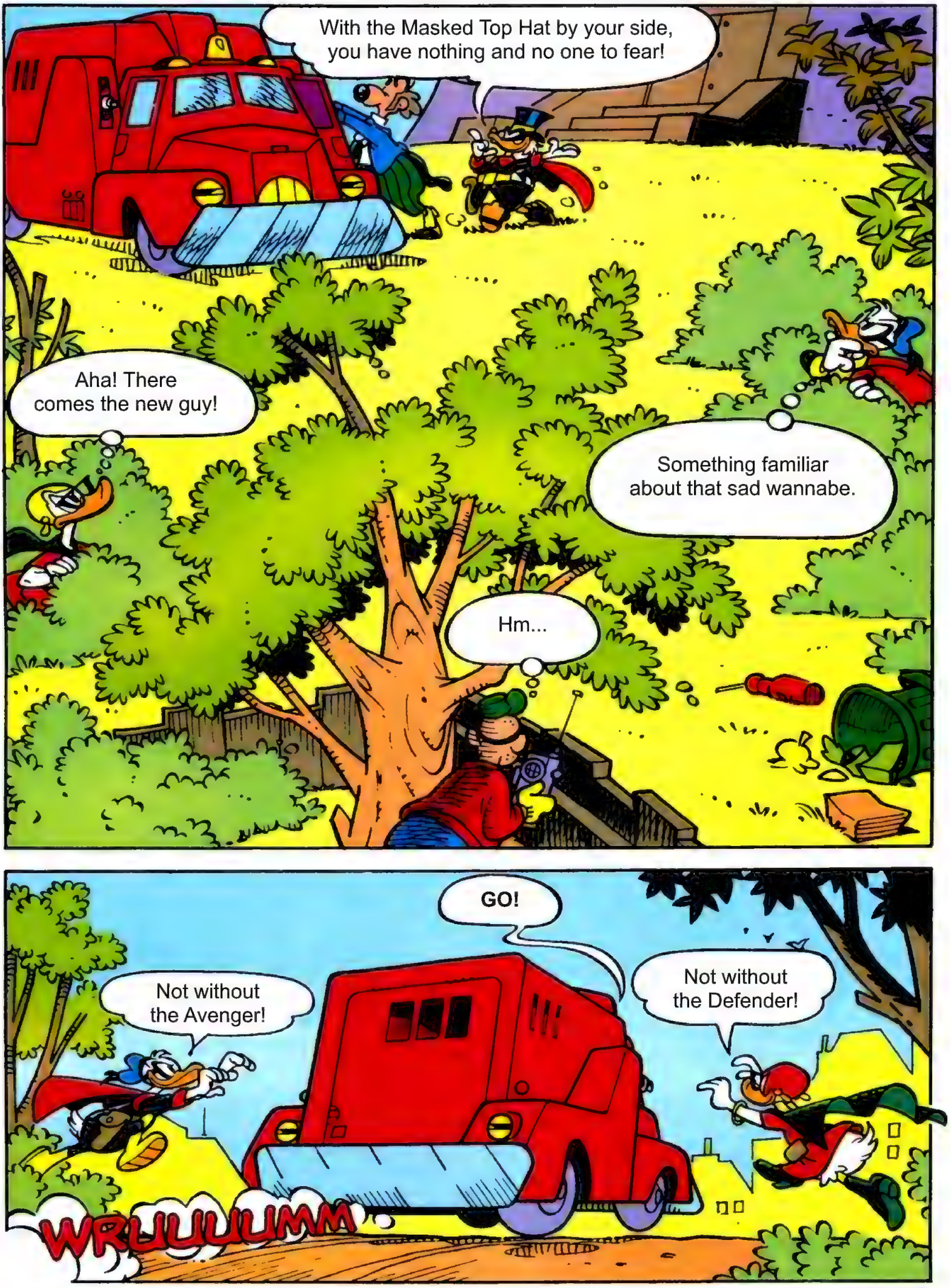

Aha! And the publisher of those esteemed and trustworthy papers of yours? Does he get a say, still?
Whoops!
Oh my!
We understand, Mr. McDuck.
Of course we'll whip up a report about what transpired here today! Why, it's a sensation!
The Masked Top Hat is, without a doubt, a hero!
The greatest of them all!
That's a fine display of journalistic integrity.
There you go.
We all saw that it was just a bluff! We saw it with our own two eyes! Not even the owner of my newspaper could make me deny...
By the way... Who owns the Daily Mallard, anyway?
The same guy who's the majority stockholder in our publishing houses...
HIM!

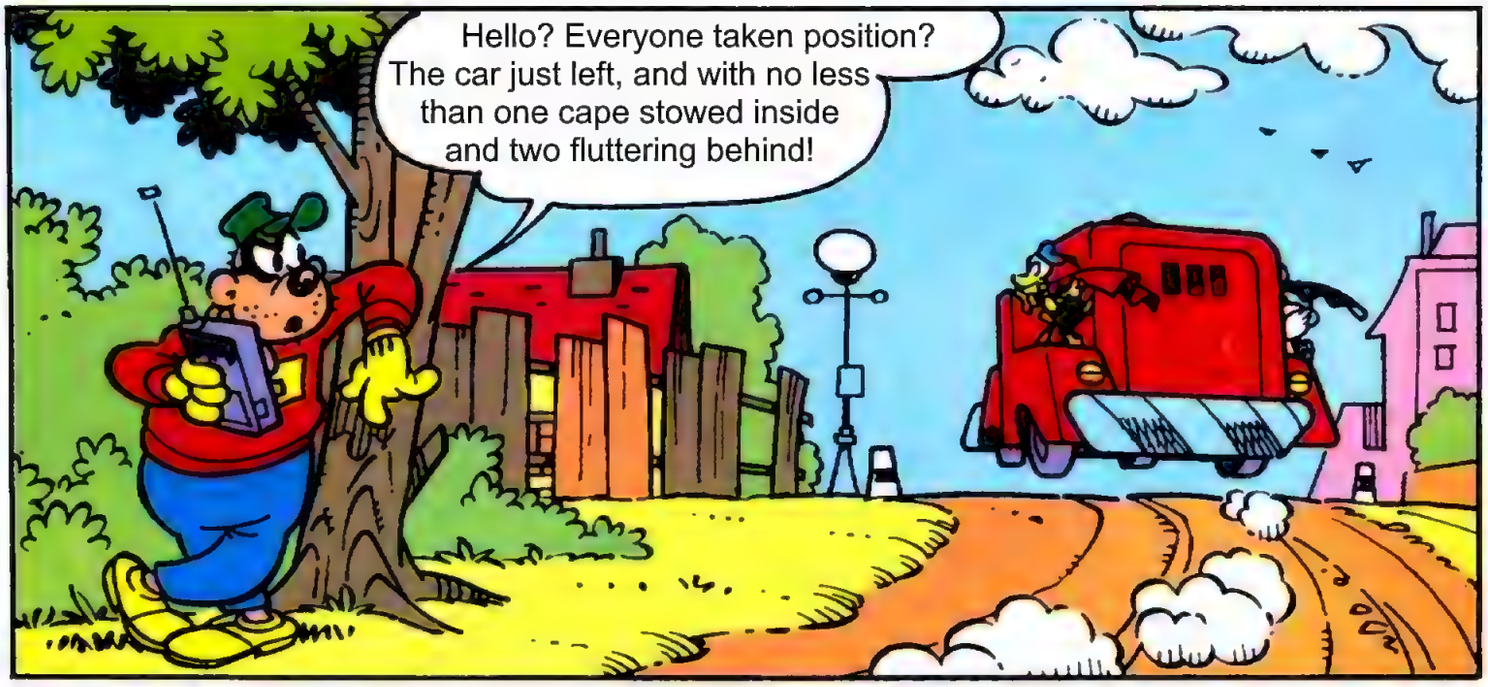

And so, the following day...
The Masked Top Hat! All about our newest super hero!
He makes DA look like yesterday's news!
Certainly seems to be a guy to look out for!
I bet he's actually an alien!
With downright unlikely abilities!
They say he'll be watching over Scrooge McDuck's gold transport tomorrow!
Hmpf! Another clown trying to claim my territory!
Of course, a few people are anything but excited to hear the news...
Pah! If it'd at least been another female vigilante!
Grmpf! With three capes running around we might as well change professions!

But the Avenger hasn't been and never will be replaced!
There's no way this rookie can do anything the Defender can't!
We should all just go on strike! Even our kind has a right to humane working conditions!
That's right!
PK
I don't understand what you're getting so worked up about. The more heroes, the better.
?! ?
KURIER
Did you get your brain stem tied in a knot, buddy?
Not at all! Hehe!
IQ-176
Indeed, and as ever, my genius knows no limits.
It's a lot like your humility in that regard.
IQ-176
Listen up, ye of little brains! I've devised a plan to rid us of the Duck Avenger and both of his copycats in one go!
For real?
IQ-176

"Three at one blow"? Sounds like a fairy tale come true!
Oh boy! Go on! I love fairy tales!
So, the most crucial component of my plan will be a special kind of mirror...
Snow White! Lovely! I know that one!
IQ-176
Hey, what's the matter? Let go!
I really do know Snow White! Word for word, even! Hmpf!
KICK
Once there were six dwarves known for their red hoods. They ate poisoned apples and slept for a hundred years until...
Or maybe there were seven?
Were they dwarves or giants? Let me in! I wanna know how it ends!
BUM BUM

The next day...
Is the armoured van ready?
Yes! You can go and get the Masked Top Hat now!
It's not too late to reconsider, sir.
Pah! Why should I?
After the lavish praise our hero received from the press, no one will dare to even look at him funny!
I hope so. For your sake.
For ours, Quackmore! For ours! Didn't I tell you? You're going to be driving!
ARGL!
PATSCH
Onwards, you scaredy cat! Have you no trust in our famed super hero?


With the Masked Top Hat by your side, you have nothing and no one to fear!
Aha! There comes the new guy!
Something familiar about that sad wannabe.
Hm...
GO!
Not without the Avenger!
Not without the Defender!
WRUUUUUMM

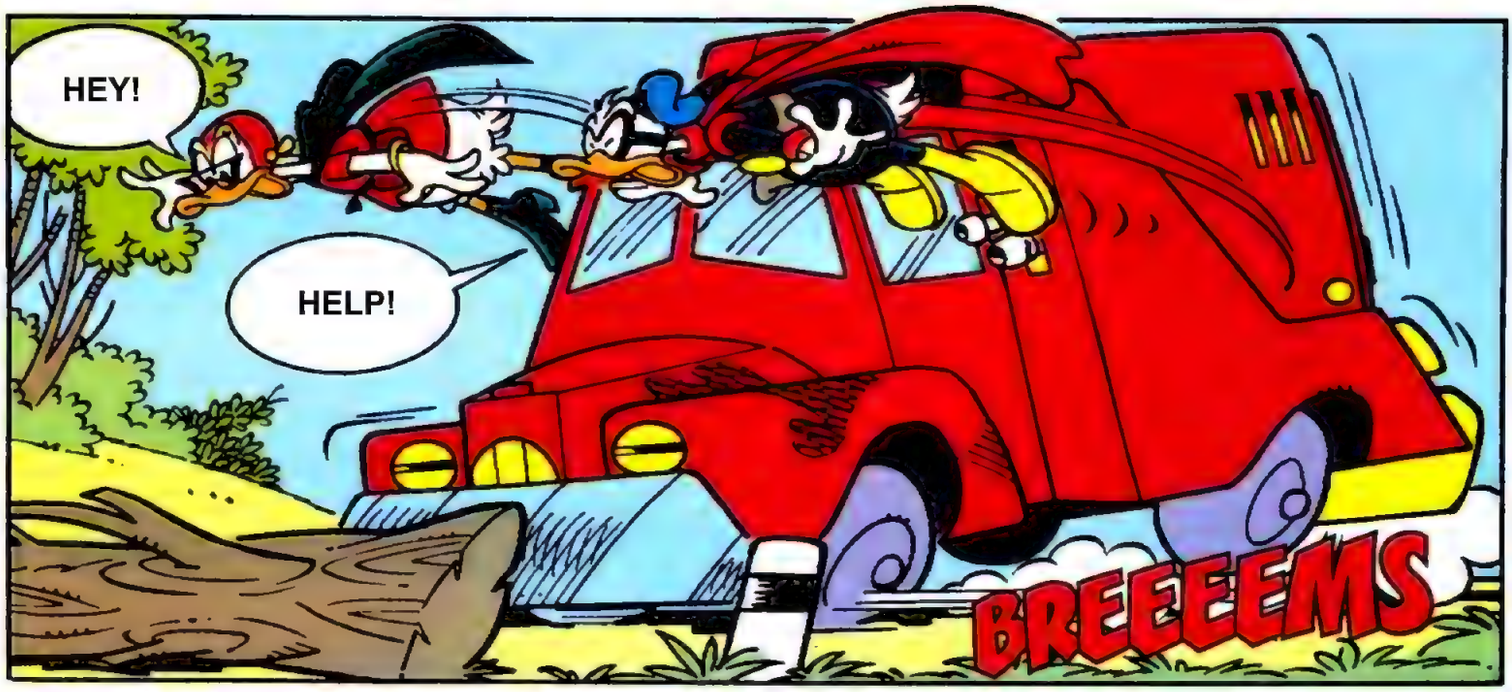

Hello? Everyone taken position? The car just left, and with no less than one cape stowed inside and two fluttering behind!

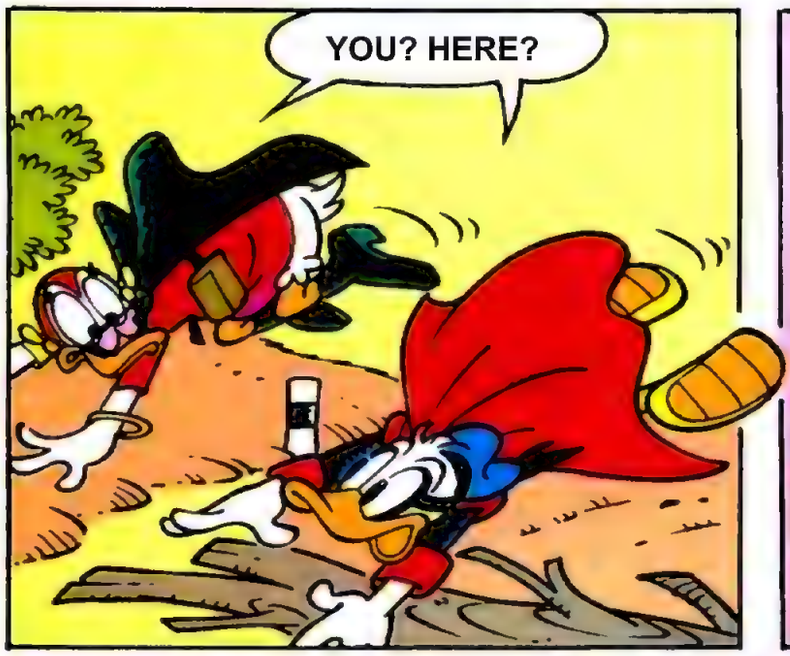
Good grief! All three of them? You know what happens after hubris?
No worries! Our plan's gonna play out perfectly!

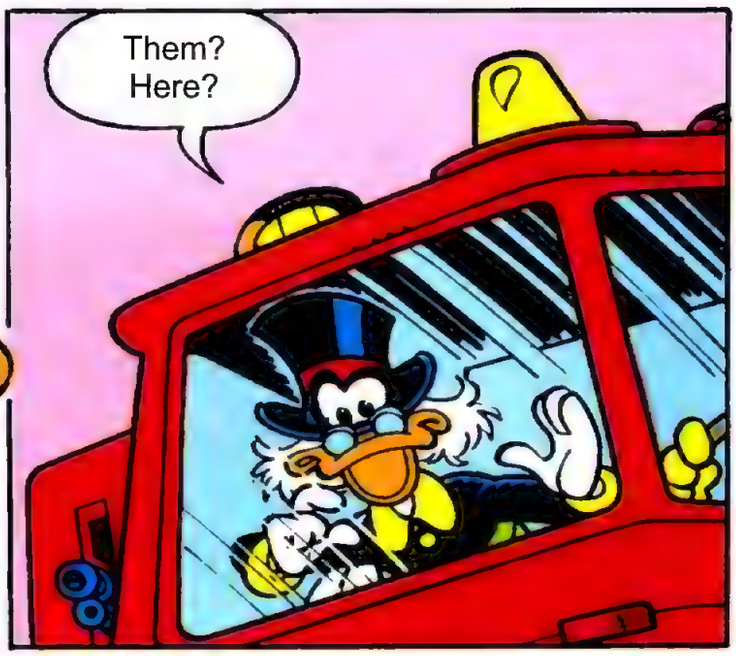
Soon as that van makes an emergency break for that stump, we'll spring into action!

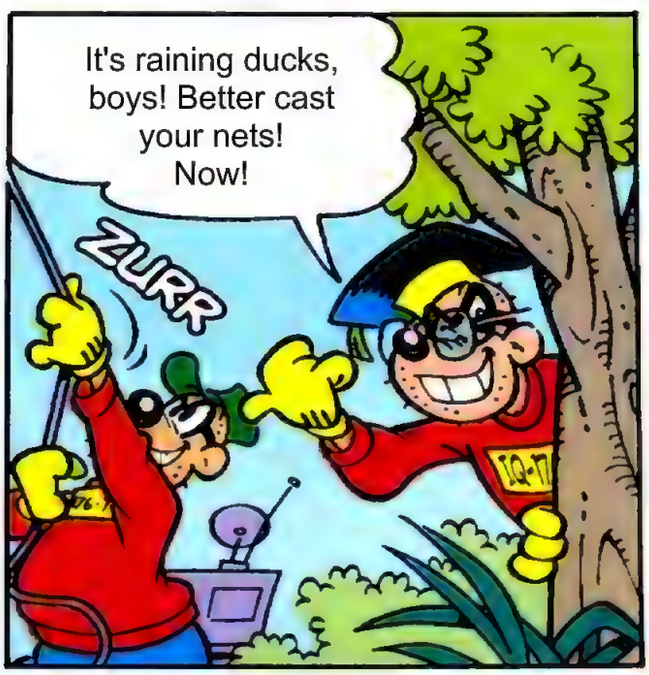
And soon after...
Did I promise too much or what? So far, it's been smooth...

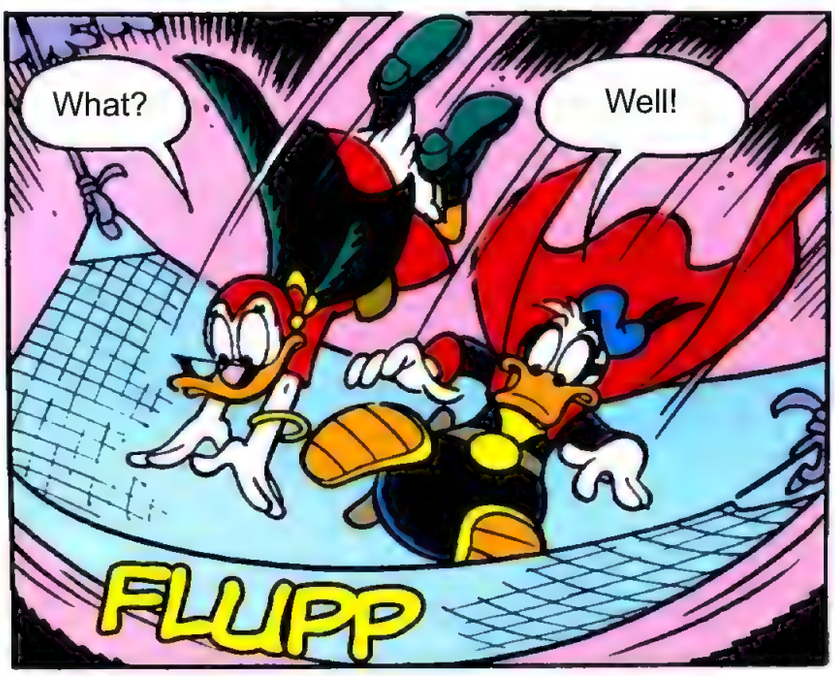
Stop! Quackmore, hit the breaks!

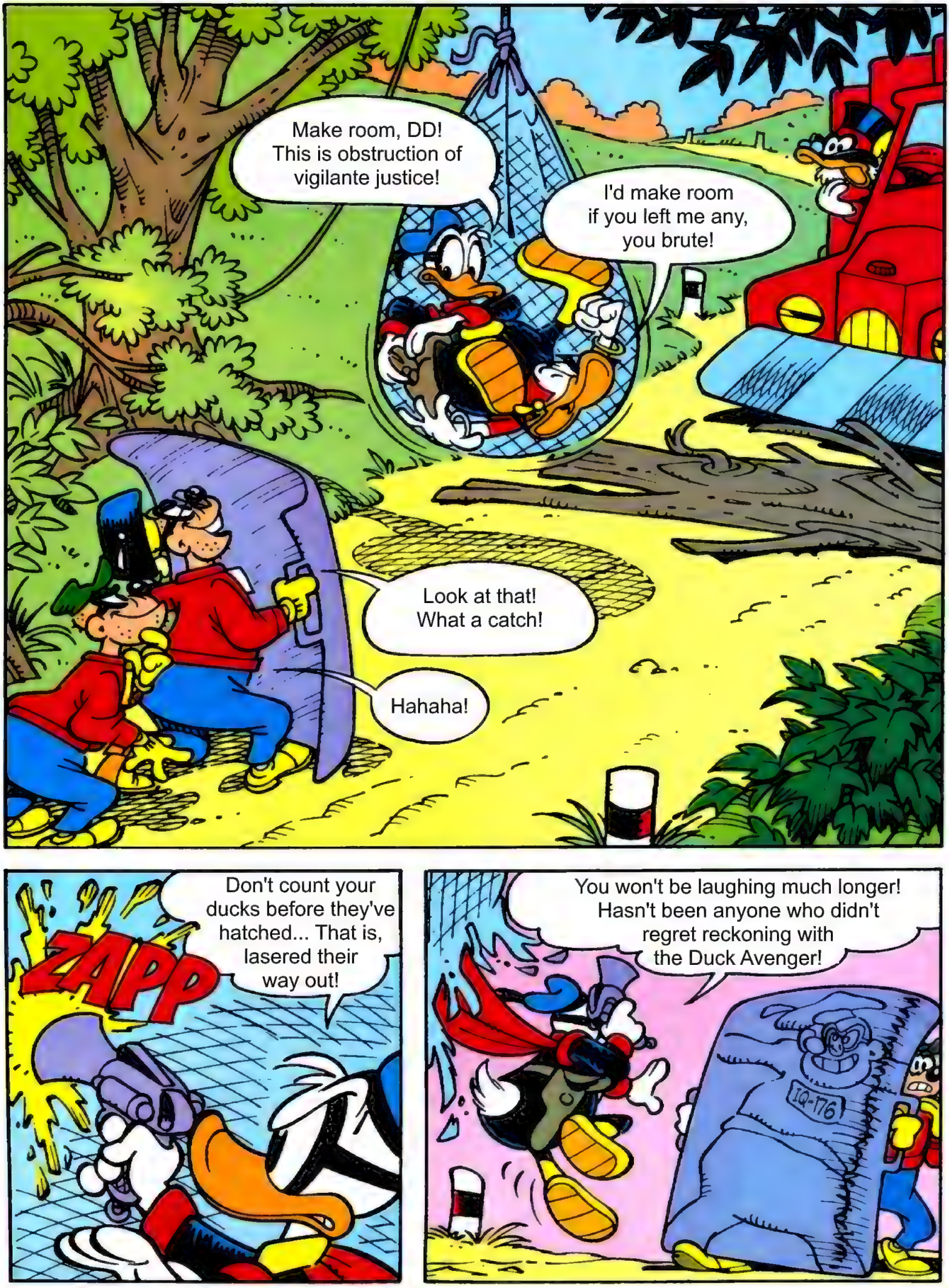

HEY!
HELP!
BREEEEEMS

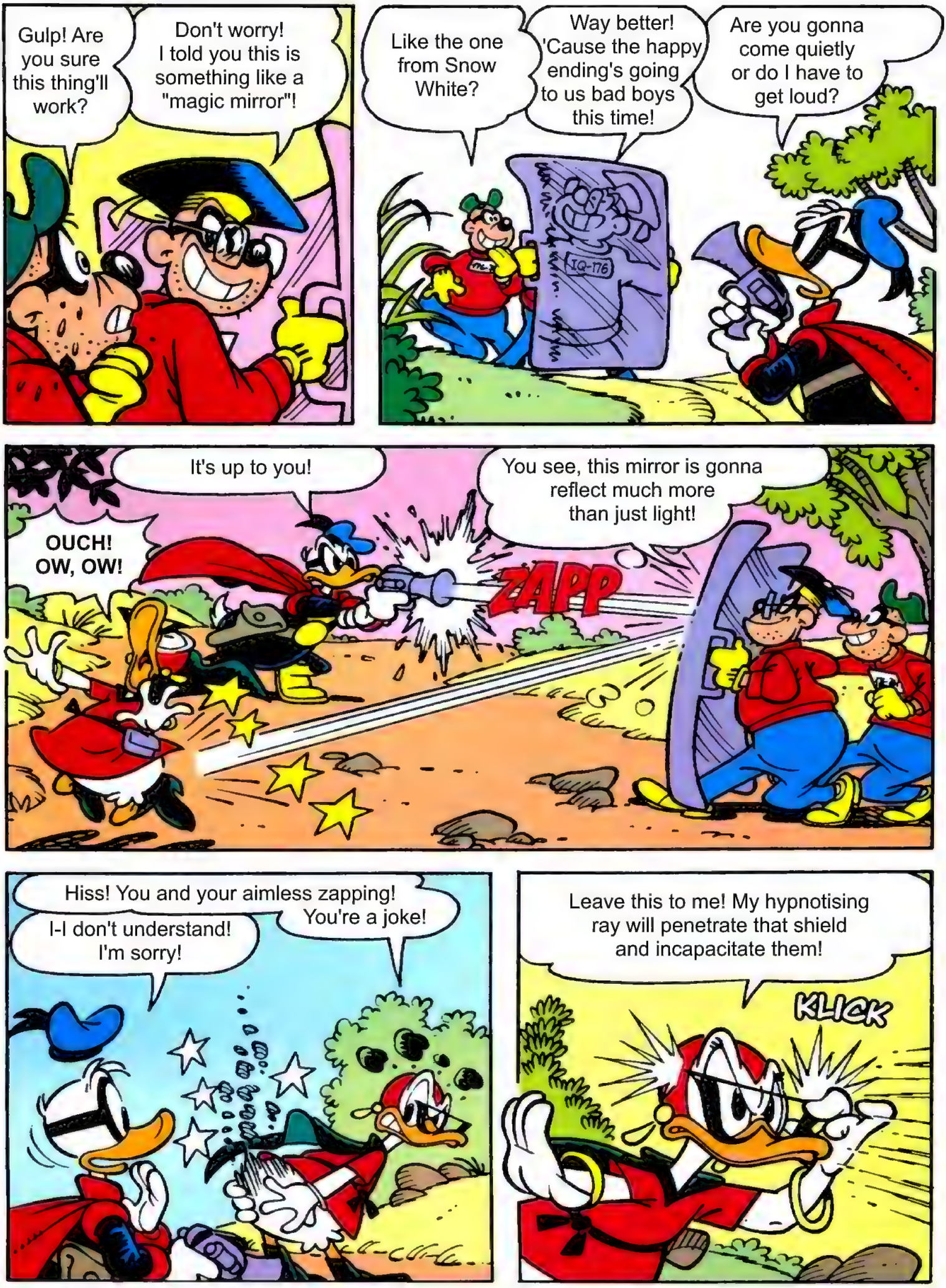

YOU? HERE?

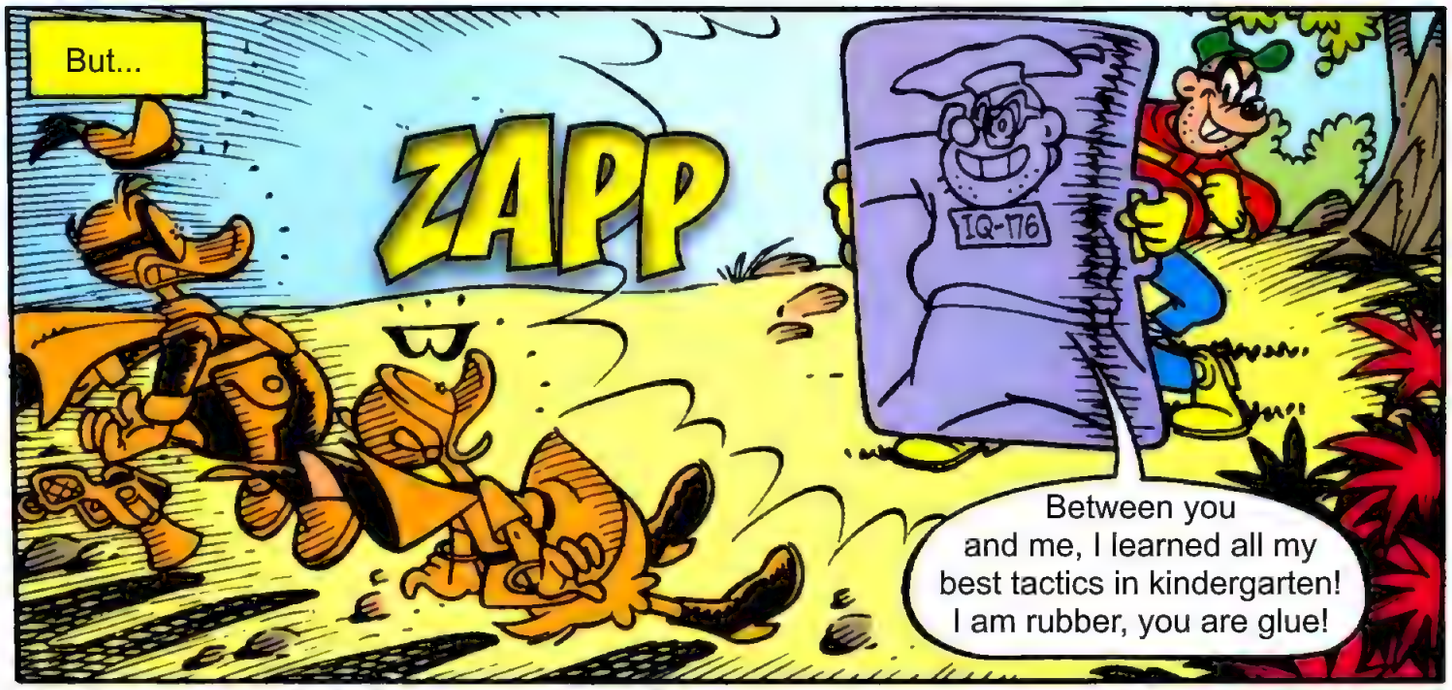

Them?
Here?


It's raining ducks, boys! Better cast your nets! Now!
ZURR

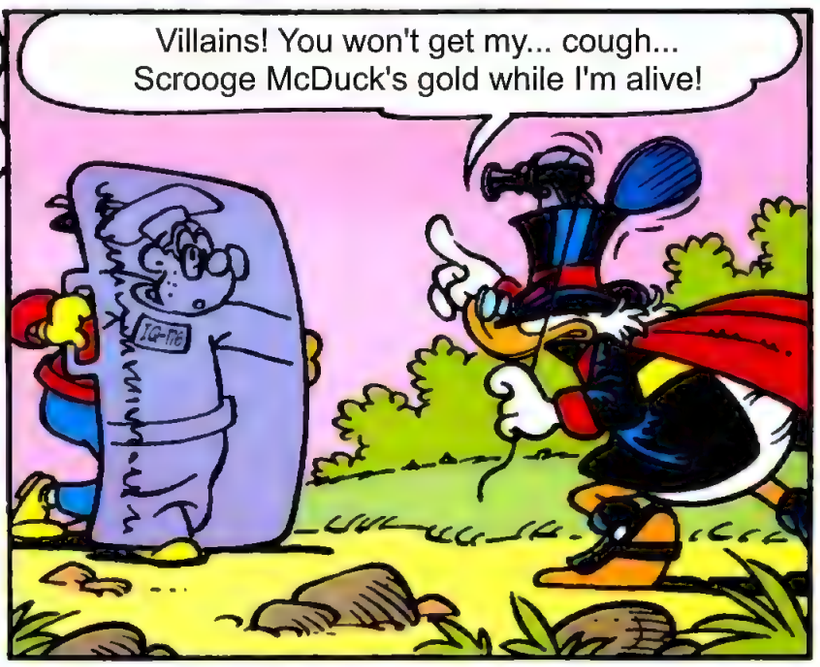

What?
Well!
FLUPP

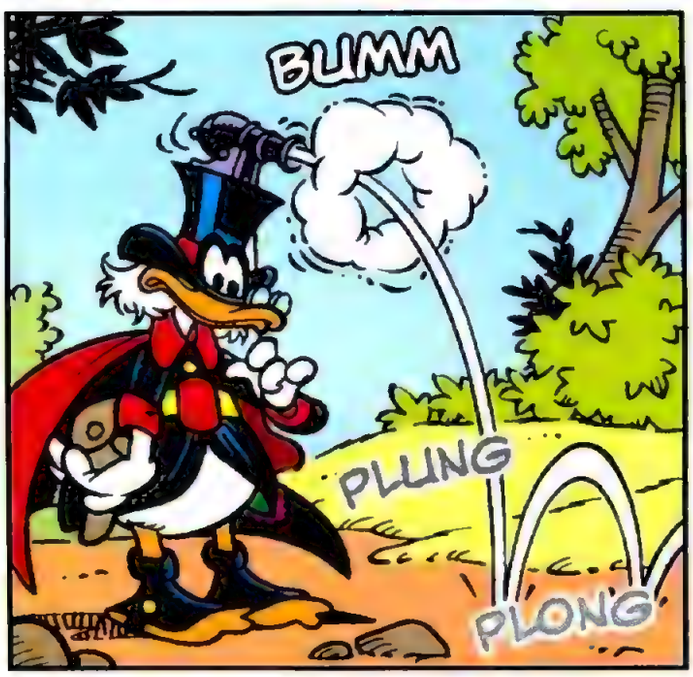

Make room, DD! This is obstruction of vigilante justice!
I'd make room if you left me any, you brute!
Look at that! What a catch!
Hahaha!
ZAPP
Don't count your ducks before they've hatched... That is, lasered their way out!
You won't be laughing much longer! Hasn't been anyone who didn't regret reckoning with the Duck Avenger!
IQ-176

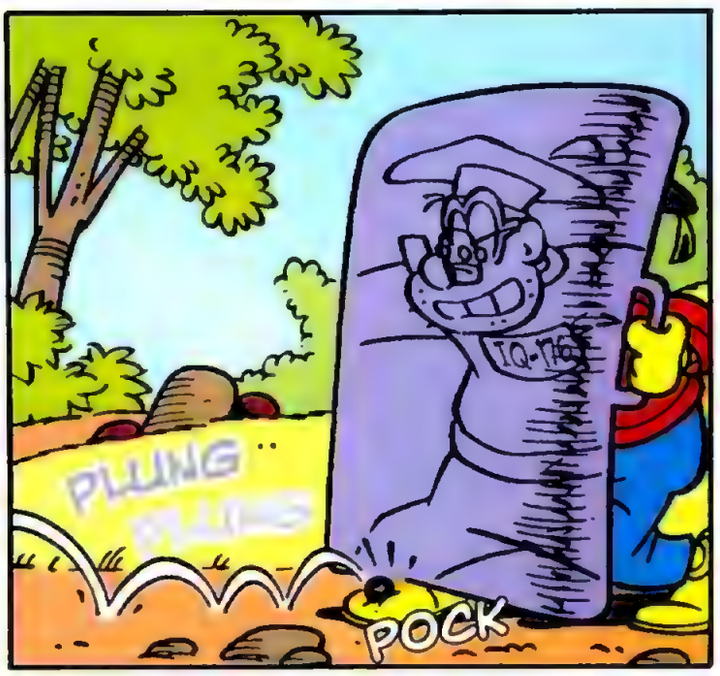

Gulp! Are you sure this thing'll work?
Don't worry! I told you this is something like a "magic mirror"!
Like the one from Snow White?
Way better! 'Cause the happy ending's going to us bad boys this time!
Are you gonna come quietly or do I have to get loud?
IQ-176
It's up to you!
You see, this mirror is gonna reflect much more than just light!
OUCH! OW, OW!
ZAPP
Hiss! You and your aimless zapping!
You're a joke!
I-I don't understand! I'm sorry!
Leave this to me! My hypnotising ray will penetrate that shield and incapacitate them!
KLICK

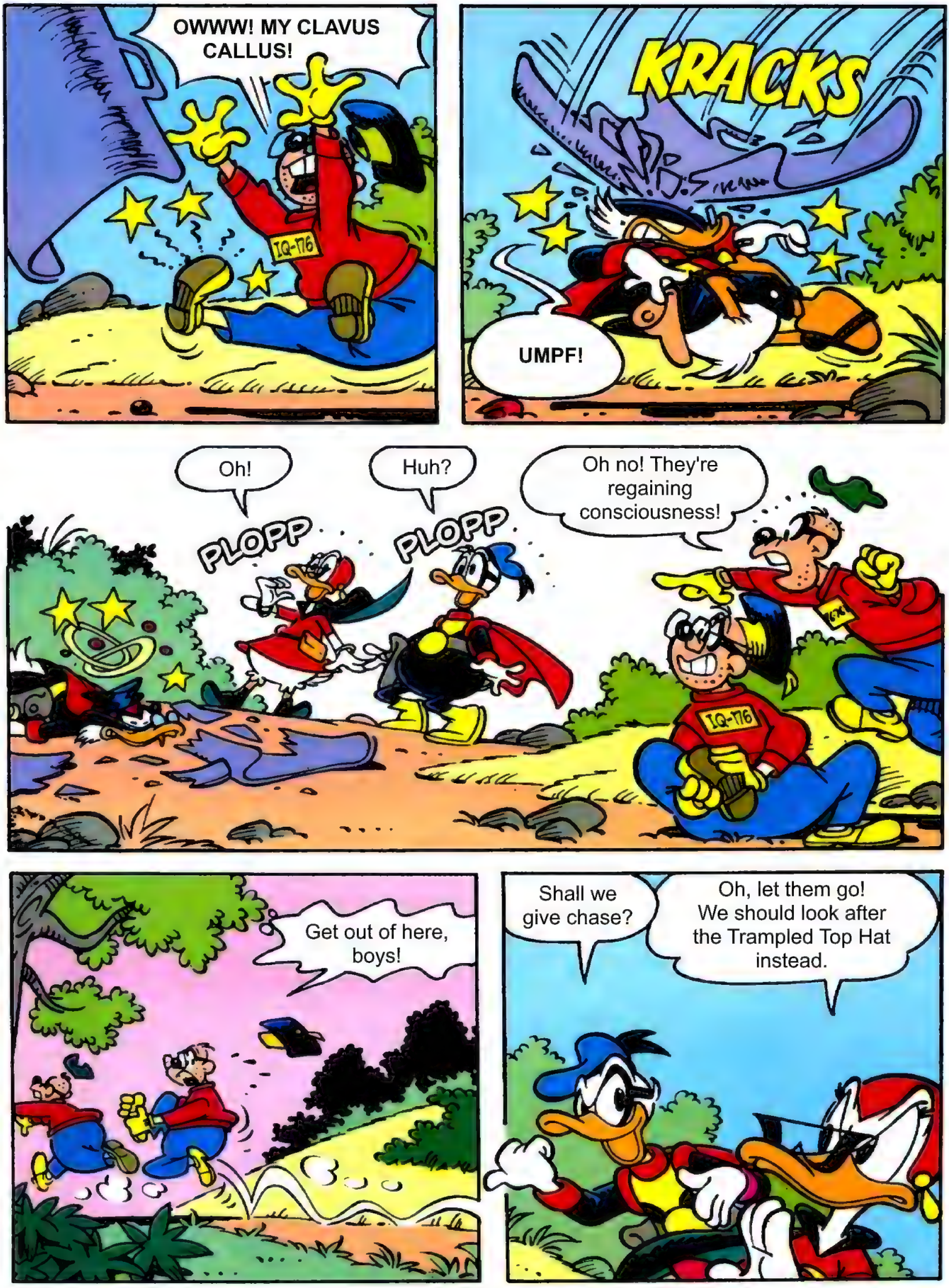

But...
ZAPP
IQ-176
Between you and me, I learned all my best tactics in kindergarten! I am rubber, you are glue!

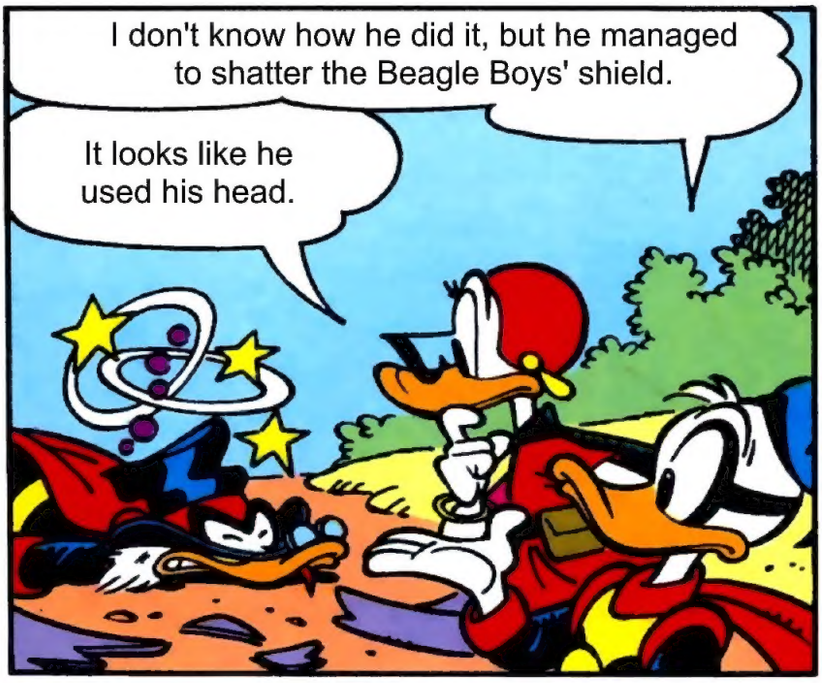
HOORAY!
Don't you celebrate too soon! We don't know what the third guy's got in store for us!
176-761
IQ-176

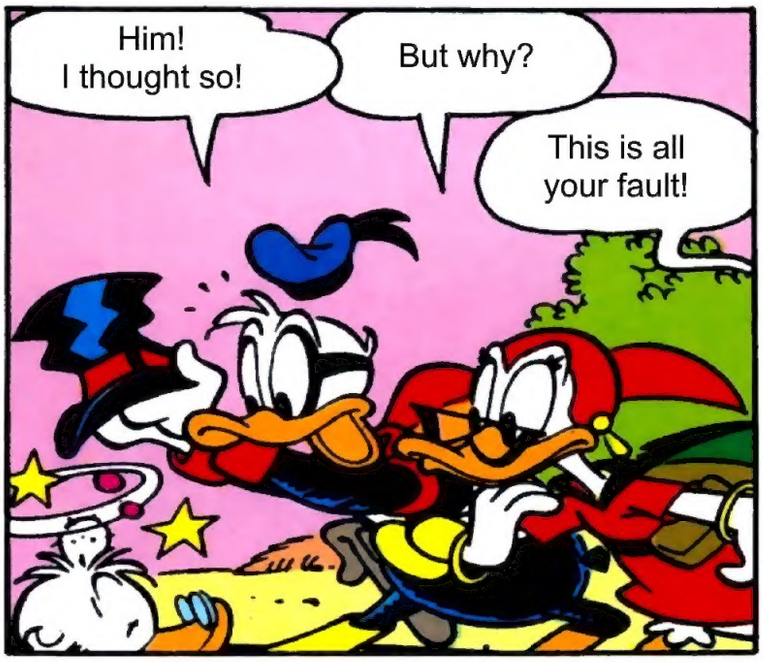

Villains! You won't get my... cough... Scrooge McDuck's gold while I'm alive!
IQ-176


BUMM
PLUNG
PLONG

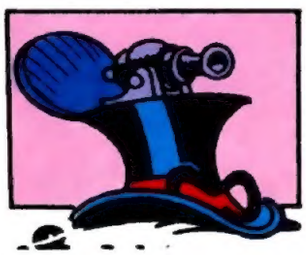

IQ-176
PLUNG
POCK

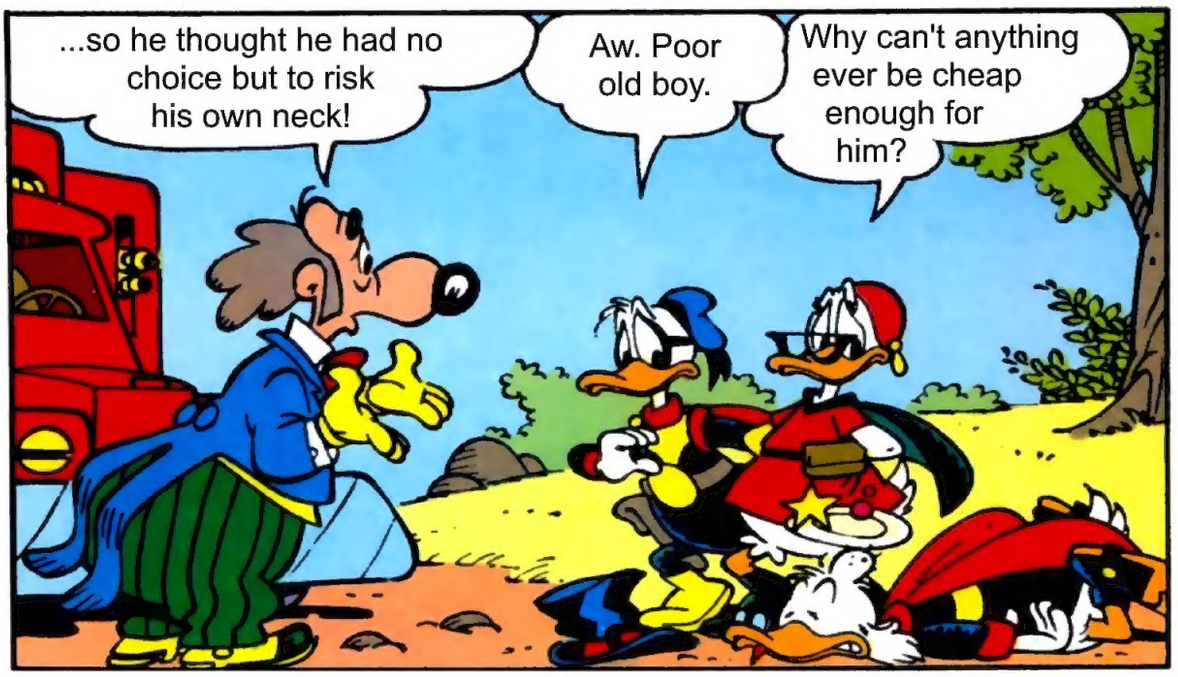

OWWW! MY CLAVUS CALLUS!
IQ-176
KRACKS
UMPF!
Oh!
Huh?
PLOPP
PLOPP
Oh no! They're regaining consciousness!
IQ-176
Get out of here, boys!
Shall we give chase?
Oh, let them go! We should look after the Trampled Top Hat instead.

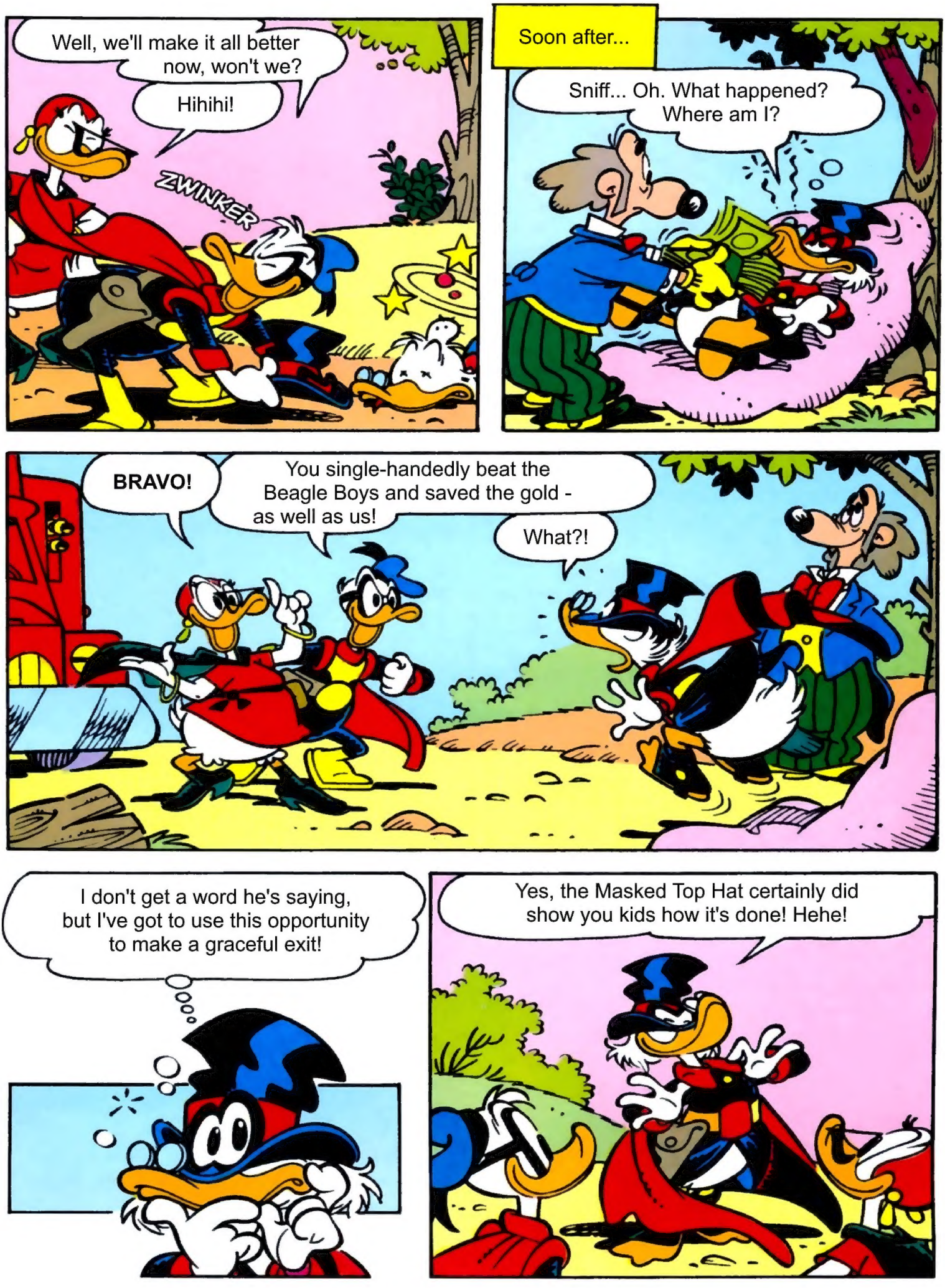




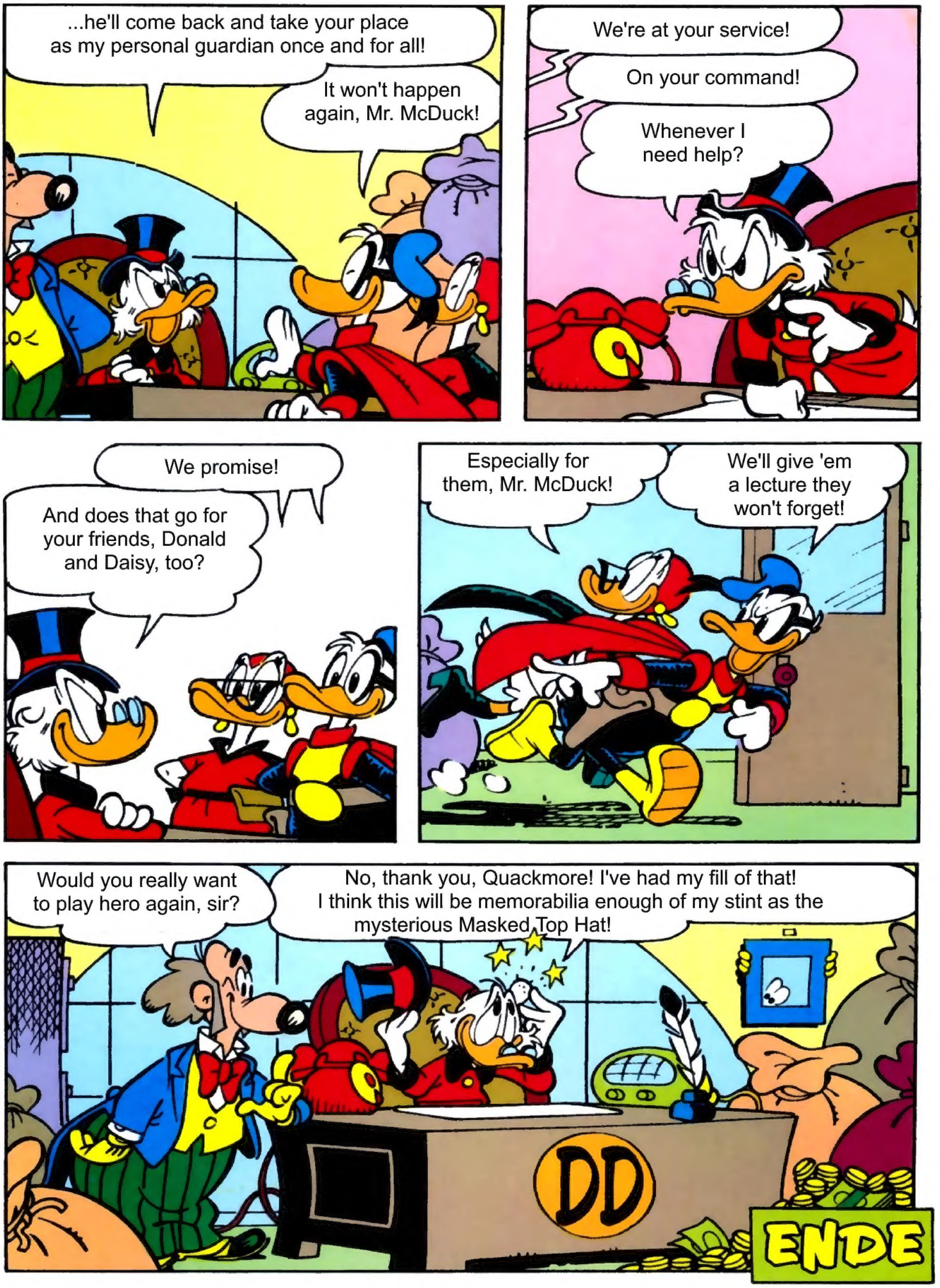
The Duck Avenger and Duck Defender can only listen with shame and regret...






Well, we'll make it all better now, won't we?
Hihihi!
ZWINKER
Soon after...
Sniff... Oh. What happened? Where am I?
BRAVO!
You single-handedly beat the Beagle Boys and saved the gold - as well as us!
What?!
I don't get a word he's saying, but I've got to use this opportunity to make a graceful exit!
Yes, the Masked Top Hat certainly did show you kids how it's done! Hehe!

But there have to be opportunities for small fry to show their stuff, too! So I'm leaving it to you to guard this gold the rest of the way!
Thanks!
How nice of you!
Way to be the bigger man.
And don't forget to report to my good friend Scrooge tomorrow!
Yes, sir!
Uncle Scrooge is making the most of his victory...
...and the Masked Top Hat told me to tell you that if you ever abandon me again...


...he'll come back and take your place as my personal guardian once and for all!
It won't happen again, Mr. McDuck!
We're at your service!
On your command!
Whenever I need help?
We promise!
And does that go for your friends, Donald and Daisy, too?
Especially for them, Mr. McDuck!
We'll give 'em a lecture they won't forget!
Would you really want to play hero again, sir?
No, thank you, Quackmore! I've had my fill of that! I think this will be memorabilia enough of my stint as the mysterious Masked Top Hat!
DD
ENDE